



FEMA



# Coordinated Needs Management Strategy

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) (<http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>) and provides authoritative flood hazard data and maps nationwide. Floodplains are constantly changing, a characteristic that makes managing a flood hazard mapping program a challenge. Periodic updates to NFIP flood hazard maps (known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps, or FIRMs) will always be needed because of physical environment, climate pattern, and engineering methodology (PCE) changes. Flood hazard mapping needs include areas where maps have not been produced or where previously completed flood hazard studies have been modified because of PCE changes in the floodplain requiring changes to published FIRMs. An important step in maintaining FIRMs is assessing the FEMA inventory of flood hazard studies and determining the accuracy of the conditions represented on the FIRMs. Information that does not adequately represent actual conditions can be considered a mapping need, perhaps warranting that FEMA perform a new flood hazard study.

FEMA uses Geographic Information System (GIS) technology and develops policies, requirements, and procedures to coordinate the management of flood hazard mapping inventory, referred to as the Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS). Through the CNMS, FEMA identifies and tracks the lifecycle of mapping requests and needs for the flood hazard mapping program.

## Benefits

CNMS helps community members, community officials, and FEMA Regions analyze and manage their flood hazard mapping. The CNMS:

- Validates Special Flood Hazard Areas and flood hazard data on FIRMs
- Allows authorized account users to submit, review, track, and evaluate mapping need requests
- Facilitates review and evaluation of mapping needs requests by authorized officials
- Supports larger revisions to FIRMs
- Enhances data-driven planning activities for map update prioritization

## Learn More

Visit the CNMS site:  
[msc.fema.gov/cnms](http://msc.fema.gov/cnms)

## Contact Us

For inquiries on CNMS- or flood hazard mapping-related topics, please contact the FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) using one of the following methods:

- Call the FMIX Toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627)
- Send an e-mail message to [FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com](mailto:FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com)  
Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. ET
- Participate in a live chat, available 9:00am to 5:00pm ET, through the FMIX web page at [www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/fmx\\_main.html](http://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/fmx_main.html)

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## Tracking of Flood Map Inventory

CNMS is comprised of processes and data for tracking the NFIP inventory of flood hazard studies along streamline flooding sources (known as CNMS Inventory). CNMS also organizes, tracks, and analyzes mapping needs submitted by communities. Within the GIS map viewer (known as CNMS Viewer), communities are able to visualize the current status of a flood hazard study or for multiple studies in a geographic area and identify studies that meet FEMA technical specifications and standards. FEMA uses a periodic inspection process to distinguish flood studies for streams that adequately identify the existing flood hazard on a FIRM from those potentially in need of a restudy. (See Figure 1.)



**Figure 1: Sample View of CNMS Viewer Displaying Validation Statuses of Flood Hazard Studies and a User-Submitted Mapping Need Request**



## CNMS Lifecycle and Validation Process

The CNMS Inventory is managed by updating validation statuses (Valid, Unverified, Assessed, and Unknown), adding new study needs, and including new input and mapping needs requests submitted by registered and authorized CNMS users.

Through the CNMS Validation Process, a flood hazard study is inspected against a variety of possible PCE changes that may have occurred since the date of the effective study/FIRM, including changes in land use, new/removed bridges and/or culverts, and accounting for recent flood events captured by gage data. By statute, FEMA is required to re-evaluate all flood hazard studies at least once every 5 years.

Studies that meet FEMA technical specifications and validity standards are assigned a “Valid” status. Studies that do not pass the inspection checks are assigned an “Unverified” status and are prioritized by FEMA Regional Offices for potential restudies. “Unknown” status is assigned to studies where information is insufficient for determining validation status. “Assessed” status is assigned to studies for which the inspection process has recently been completed and is the studies are awaiting further classification.

## Request a CNMS Account and Additional User Resources

All visitors to the CNMS application may view CNMS data, including submitted mapping need requests and validation statuses of flood hazard studies nationwide. Registered CNMS account users may submit a request a mapping need in their affiliated FEMA Region by selecting the area of interest on the CNMS Viewer and submitting the request for further FEMA review. Authorized individuals that may create an account include elected community officials, floodplain administrators, and city and emergency management planners. . To learn more about CNMS and how to request an account, please visit [www.fema.gov/risk-mapping-assessment-and-planning-risk-map/coordinated-needs-management-strategy](http://www.fema.gov/risk-mapping-assessment-and-planning-risk-map/coordinated-needs-management-strategy).