



FEMA



Flood Hazard Products Direct Download

Standardized Web Address Format for Information Available through the FEMA Flood Map Service Center

The FEMA Flood Map Service Center (MSC) is the official online source for flood hazard information produced under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). All flood mapping products, such as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), Flood Insurance Studies (FIS), and National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) geodatabases, are available for free download.

Users may take advantage of the [Search by Address](#) or [Search All Products](#) features of the MSC to locate products for their area of interest. In addition, a standardized web address (URL) format is available that enables users to view FIRMs or download any available flood hazard products directly, without having to navigate through the MSC or complete a search.

Communities and other local entities can take advantage of this feature to provide direct links to their respective flood maps and other flood hazard products on their own websites. A small community that is covered by just a few FIRM panels, for instance, could identify which panels cover which areas and then create links to view and/or download them. Then the link can be labeled using a naming convention recognizable by the locality, e.g., “Northwest Section of Town,” “Downtown,” “Riverbank Area,” etc.

Larger municipalities that are covered by numerous FIRM panels could embed links within an image map of their community. Clicking on a particular point on the map would initiate a view window and/or download of the FIRM panel covering that point. Many communities make use of image maps of this kind – an example from the City of Sioux Falls, SD may be found at <http://www.siouxfalls.org/parks/bike/trail/view-map.aspx>.

Jurisdictions may also take advantage of this feature to provide product view and download functionality through their own GIS applications and viewers. The [FEMA GeoPlatform](http://fema.maps.arcgis.com) (<http://fema.maps.arcgis.com>), for example, combines the direct download functionality with a map viewer interface.

Visit the FEMA Flood Map Service Center (MSC) at

<http://msc.fema.gov>

Questions?

Contact the FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX)

Toll free: 1-877-FEMA-MAP
(1-877-336-2627)

FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 6:30 pm ET

Try our Live Chat Service, available 9:00 am to 5:00 pm ET on the MSC

For information about flood insurance, visit the NFIP website

<http://www.FloodSmart.gov>

To view FEMA GIS data, visit the FEMA GeoPlatform

<http://fema.maps.arcgis.com>

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Standard Direct Download Format

The standard direct download format contains two parts: the static prefix and the Product ID. Combining the two yields a web address that, when accessed, initiates a download for the flood hazard product corresponding to the Product ID. An example full URL is: http://msc.fema.gov/portal/downloadProduct?productID=NFHL_51013C

The static download prefix, which remains unchanged for all products, is:
<http://msc.fema.gov/portal/downloadProduct?productID=>

For FIRMs only, there is also a view prefix which will launch the FIRMette Web viewer and display the FIRM corresponding to the indicated Product ID. The static view prefix is:
<http://msc.fema.gov/portal/viewProduct?productID=>

The Product ID is a unique identifier for each flood risk mapping product issued by FEMA. The Product ID can usually be found in the document itself, or else derived according to a standard pattern. You may also find the Product ID for a particular file by using the Search All Products feature on the MSC to locate it. For more information on each product type, please see the [MSC Products and Tools Overview](http://msc.fema.gov/portal/resources/productsandtools) (<http://msc.fema.gov/portal/resources/productsandtools>).

Product IDs for common products found on the MSC follow these conventions:

- **FIRM:** The Map Number printed on the map title block, e.g. *51013C0017C*
- **FIS:** The Flood Insurance Study Volume Number printed on the report cover, e.g. *51013CV000A*
- **NFHL county/community database:** the prefix “NFHL_” followed by the Community Identification (CID) number, e.g. 230016; or, for a county-wide database, the county’s five-digit Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code, followed by the letter “C” e.g. 51013C. An example of a full NFHL database Product ID is *NFHL_230016* or *NFHL_51013C*
- **Letter of Map Change (LOMC):** There are three categories of LOMC hosted on the MSC – Letters of Map Revision (LOMR), Letters of Map Amendment (LOMA), and Revalidations or LOMC-VALID Letters. The Product ID for each of these corresponds to the Case Number printed on the Determination Document or Revalidation Letter, followed by a hyphen, and then the CID number of the community for which the LOMC was issued. Examples include *11-03-0675P-515525* (LOMR), *10-03-1845A-510053* (LOMA), and *09-03-0596V-510052* (Revalidation)
- **Preliminary FIRM database:** The CID number or county-wide FIPS+C code of the jurisdiction, followed by “_PRELIMDB” e.g., *020037_PRELIMDB* or *34007C_PRELIMDB*

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