



## The Applicability of Executive Order (E.O.) 11988/13690 to FEMA Programs

### Introduction

On January 30, 2015, the President signed Executive Order (E.O.) 13690, Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input, which amended E.O. 11988, Floodplain Management, issued in 1977. Once implemented by Federal agencies, the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) will reduce the risk and cost of future flood disasters by ensuring that Federal investments in and affecting floodplains are constructed to better withstand the impacts of flooding. It will support the thousands of communities across the country that have strengthened their local floodplain management codes and standards and will help ensure Federal projects last as long as intended. The FFRMS will apply to the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants, the Public Assistance Program, and any other FEMA grants when they fund construction activities in or affecting a floodplain.

This fact sheet responds to questions that have been raised in this process about the intended scope of the FFRMS, as well as anticipated impacts to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

### FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

The FFRMS will not affect the standards or rates of the NFIP. The FFRMS will not change the minimum floodplain management criteria in 44 CFR Part 60 that communities must adopt in order to participate in the NFIP for floodprone areas, FEMA's flood mapping standards, or the rating and claims practices of the NFIP. This means that the FFRMS will have no effect on the cost or availability of Federal flood insurance for policyholders. FEMA will continue to identify and map floodprone areas and designate flood risk zones based on the 1-percent-annual-chance floodplain using available engineering methods and depict these zones on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).

FEMA also will not require property owners and renters to obtain insurance if they are outside the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), defined as the area within a floodplain

that has a 1-percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year- as delineated on the FIRMs - because it will not incorporate the expanded floodplain delineation or elevated flood heights into the FIRMs. However, since approximately 25 percent of all flood loss claims come from areas outside the designated SFHA, property owners may still wish to purchase flood insurance for financial protection during a flood. In addition, individual mortgage lenders continue to have the discretion to require property owners to obtain flood insurance for areas both inside and outside the SFHA as a condition of their mortgage financing.

The FFRMS will not impact a flood insurance policy's Increase Cost of Compliance (ICC) coverage. These funds are considered a part of the Standard Flood Insurance Policy and are not a financial transaction subject to FFRMS requirements. As a result, NFIP policy holders who have ICC coverage may use this coverage to bring their home or business into compliance with their community's floodplain ordinance through mitigation activities such as, floodproofing nonresidential structures, elevation, relocation, or demolition.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

#### Fact Sheet on E.O. 13690

[https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/Press\\_Releases/January\\_30\\_2015](https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/Press_Releases/January_30_2015)

#### Website on E.O. 13690 and the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard

<https://www.fema.gov/federal-flood-risk-management-standard-ffrms>

#### Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management

<https://www.fema.gov/executive-order-11988-floodplain-management>