
C Glossary and Acronyms

Glossary

Key terms and definitions are addressed in Chapter 3. The following are additional terms used in this Desk Reference.

A

Accessory structure – A structure that is on the same parcel of property as a principal structure, the use of which is incidental to the use of the principal structure.

Agricultural structure – A structure used exclusively for agricultural purposes such as storage of farm machinery and equipment, grain bins and silos, corn cribs, and general purposes barns for feeding and raising livestock. Homes located on farms are not agricultural structures.

B

Base flood – The flood having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year, commonly referred to as the “100-year flood.” The base flood is the national standard used by the NFIP and all Federal agencies for the purposes of requiring the purchase of flood insurance and regulating new development.

Base flood elevation (BFE) – The elevation of the base (1-percent annual chance or 100-year) flood compared to a specified datum, usually the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929, or the North American Vertical Datum of 1988.

Basement – Any area of a building having its floor subgrade (below ground level) on all sides.

Breakaway wall – A wall that is not part of the structural support of the building and is intended through its design and construction to collapse under specified lateral loading forces, without causing damage to the elevated portion of the building or supporting foundation system.

D

Determination, SI/SD – The result of comparing the costs of a proposed improvement (or costs to repair substantial damage) to the market value of a structure for the purposes of determining whether the resulting ratio equals or exceeds a certain percentage (50 percent in the NFIP minimum requirements).

E

Elevation Certificate – FEMA Form 81-31, a form developed by FEMA to collect surveyed elevations and other information about a building that is necessary to obtain flood insurance. The *Elevation Certificate* and instructions are available online at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1383>.

Enclosure or enclosed area – Areas created by a crawlspace or solid walls that fully enclose areas below elevated buildings that are below the BFE.

F

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – The Federal agency that, in addition to carrying out other activities, administers the National Flood Insurance Program.

Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) – The official map of a community on which FEMA has delineated both the SFHAs and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

Flood opening – An opening in a foundation or enclosure wall that allows automatic entry and exit of floodwaters (see FEMA Technical Bulletin 1 for descriptions of “non-engineered opening” and “engineered opening”).

Floodway – The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.

Floodproofing – Any combination of structural and non-structural additions, changes, or adjustments to structures that reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate or improved real property, water and sanitary facilities, structures, and their contents.

Floodproofing Certificate – FEMA Form 81-65, a form developed by FEMA that is to be completed, signed and sealed by a licensed professional engineer or licensed architect to certify that the design of the floodproofing and the proposed methods of construction are in accordance with the requirements. The *Floodproofing Certificate* is available online at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1600>.

H

Historic structure – Any structure that is:

- (a) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
- (b) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;
- (c) Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or
- (d) Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:

- (1) By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or
- (2) Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

Hydrodynamic load – The load imposed on an object, such as a foundation element or enclosure wall, by water flowing against and around it.

Hydrostatic load – The load imposed on an object, such as an enclosure wall, by a standing mass of water.

N

New construction – Structures for which the “start of construction” commenced on or after the effective date of a floodplain management regulation adopted by a community and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures.

P

Post-FIRM – A building for which construction or substantial improvement occurred after December 31, 1974, or on or after the effective date of an initial Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), whichever is later.

Pre-FIRM – A building for which construction or substantial improvement occurred on or before December 31, 1974, or before the effective date of an initial FIRM.

R

Registered Design Professional – An individual who is registered or licensed to practice their respective design profession as defined by the statutory requirements of the professional registration laws of the State or jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed.

S

Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) – An area delineated on a Flood Insurance Rate Map as being subject to inundation by the base flood and designated as Zone A, AE, A1-A30, AR, AO, AH, A99, V, VE, or V1-V30.

Substantial damage – Damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

Substantial improvement – Any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the “start of construction” of the improvement. This term includes structures that have incurred “substantial damage,” regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either:

- (1) Any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of State or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions or
- (2) Any alteration of a “historic structure,” provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure’s continued designation as a “historic structure.”

V

Violation – The failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community’s floodplain management regulations.

Acronyms

A

ACV	actual cash value
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ASCE	American Society of Civil Engineers, Inc.
ASFPM	Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc.
ATC	Applied Technology Council

B

BFE	base flood elevation
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C

CBRS	Coastal Barrier Resource System
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CRS	Community Rating System

D

DHS	Department of Homeland Security
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F

FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHBM	Flood Hazard Boundary Map
FIA	Federal Insurance Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FIS	Flood Insurance Study
FMA	Flood Mitigation Assistance (grant program)

G

GIS geographic information system

GPS global positioning system

H

HMGP Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

HVAC Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning

I

IBC *International Building Code*[®]

I-Codes The family of codes published by the International Code Council, Inc.

ICC Increased Cost of Compliance (NFIP flood insurance coverage)

ICC International Code Council, Inc.

IEBC *International Existing Building Code*[®]

IRC *International Residential Code*[®]

N

NFIP National Flood Insurance Program

O

OPA Otherwise Protected Area

P

PDA Preliminary Damage Assessment

PDM Pre-Disaster Mitigation (grant program)

R

RCV	replacement cost value
RFC	Repetitive Flood Claims (grant program)
RLP	Repetitive Loss Property

S

SDE	<i>Substantial Damage Estimator</i>
SEI	Structural Engineering Institute
SFHA	Special Flood Hazard Area
SI/SD	substantial improvement/substantial damage
SRL	Severe Repetitive Loss (grant program)

