Hurricane Katrina Surge Inundation and Advisory Base Flood Elevation Map
Orleans Parish, Louisiana
Map Number: LA-GG37

Date of Event: August 29, 2005
Date of Map: June 6, 2006

How to Read This Map
In known protected areas, the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) is to be used for retrofitting at a particular location. The highest two options are:

1. Current, effective Base Flood Elevation (BFE) shown on the community’s Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).
2. Highest Existing Alternative Grade (HEAG) at the building site. This HEAG is defined as the highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure.

Using the best-available data, FEMA has mapped the areas of the Parish where each of these two options should be applied.

In green-shaded areas, FEMA recommends that the first floor of the building (including basement) be elevated to 3 feet above HEAG at the building site.

In yellow-shaded areas, FEMA recommends that the first floor of the building (including basement) be elevated to 2.5 feet above HEAG. The yellow-shaded area is to be interpreted as a warning area. The yellow-shaded area is to be elevated to the next flood elevation that is not shaded.

In orange-shaded areas, FEMA recommends that the first floor of the building (including basement) be elevated to 1 foot above HEAG. The orange-shaded area is to be interpreted as an area with potentially severe flooding. The orange-shaded area is to be elevated in accordance with the yellow-shaded area.

For areas where the base flood elevation (BFE) is not shown on the FIRM, FEMA recommends that the first floor of the building (including basement) be elevated to 3 feet above HEAG.

Note: For more information on how the ABFE guidance was determined for this Parish, please see: