



New Data for Managing Risk **Flood Map Modernization**

www.fema.gov/fhm

Flood Map Modernization (“Map Mod”) is FEMA’s multi-year effort to update and transform flood maps into more reliable, easy-to-use, and readily available digital products. Map Mod enables communities and citizens across the country to more efficiently obtain flood hazard data, learn their flood risk, and make informed decisions about development, floodplain management, and mitigation projects that limit damages in future flooding events.

Mapping flood risks

The first step in preventing and reducing flood loss is to obtain reliable information about risk. Flood hazard maps, also known as Flood Insurance Risk Maps (FIRMs), indicate the areas with at least one percent risk of flooding each year. However, flood risk changes over time and many maps no longer reflect current risks, due to land development and natural changes in the environment.

Map Mod is producing more reliable, up-to-date flood data by using the latest mapping technology, incorporating data into current models, and delivering it in a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based format. Digital maps can be updated easily and at less cost, as flood risks change.

New flood maps have been produced for jurisdictions representing about 25 percent of the nation’s population. Maps currently under development represent an additional 50 percent of the population.

The goal is to produce new flood maps for 97 percent of the country by the end of fiscal year 2008.

New maps mean a safer public

Map Modernization is making flood hazard information available to a wide range of users, including the public, floodplain managers, developers, and the flood insurance industry. With the new maps, communities can more efficiently manage flood risks, land use, water resources, disaster mitigation, and disaster recovery operations. And property owners can more reliably assess their flood risk and make decisions about flood insurance based on that risk.

Flood Hazard Maps and the Gulf Coast

With flood hazard maps ranging in age from two to more than 25 years, counties and parishes along the Gulf Coast are actively involved in, or are scheduled to begin, the re-mapping process.

Alabama – Preliminary studies were just completed and are now available for public comment for the two coastal counties (Baldwin and Mobile).

Mississippi – The three coastal counties (Hancock, Harrison and Jackson) are currently being re-mapped. In the meantime, advisory flood elevation data has been provided.

Louisiana – All but seven parishes near and along the Gulf Coast are being studied. Three studies have been completed and are in the public comment period (Jefferson, Calcasieu, St. Tammany). Acadia, Assumption, Cameron, Iberville, Lafayette, and Vermillion are scheduled to start the re-study process in FY06 and Jefferson Davis is planned to start in FY07.



The Map Modernization funding process

Congress appropriated funding to update flood maps across the entire country. FEMA maintains a five-year planning horizon for Map Mod. It is anticipated that during the five-year period from FY04 to FY08, Congress will appropriate \$200 million per year. Augmenting the Congressional appropriations are fees from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Some State and local governments are contributing with funding or in-kind services. Through FEMA's Cooperating Technical Partners initiative, many communities are taking a proactive approach to Map Mod, and are contributing funding or in-kind services.

A nationwide rollout

FEMA has developed the Multi-Year Flood Hazard Identification Plan (MHIP), a 5-year road map for the modernization of the flood hazard maps. The plan was developed in collaboration with local, state, regional, and national participants, and is updated based on feedback from stakeholders. The plan provides a forecast of flood mapping activities and respective funding amounts at the county level. FEMA plans to update the MHIP twice a year and encourages feedback from stakeholders. For more details, go to www.fema.gov/fhm/mh_main.shtm.

Learn more about flood hazard maps

Properties located in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) – areas along the coast, along rivers, and in other low-lying areas and floodplains – are at the highest risk for flooding, but everyone is at some risk. Current flood maps can be viewed on the FEMA Flood Map Store Web site at www.store.msc.fema.gov. To speak with one of the FEMA map specialists, call 1-877-336-2627. To learn more about flood insurance, visit www.FloodSmart.gov.