

Additional Information Resources Regarding the



Floodplain Management Program

Division of Dam Safety and Floodplain Management

If you have questions, please contact us at (804) 371-6095 or via email at dam@dcr.virginia.gov

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Community Rating System (CRS)		
The National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements.		http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-community-rating-system
CRS Application Letter of Interest and CRS Quick Check	A community must submit these documents in order to start the application process for CRS. The quick check can help communities estimate how many points they are currently eligible for in CRS.	http://crsresources.org/quick-check/

Elevation Certificates		
Elevation Certificates are a critical tool that can help you ensure and document elevation and opening compliance. CRS participating communities must require them for “as built” structures. Making sure they are correct and have all needed data is critical.		http://www.fema.gov/elevation-certificate

Flood Insurance Reform		
The NFIP has changed significantly with the passage of recent legislation. This will affect homeowners.		http://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance-reform

Flood Insurance Requirements and New Maps		
FDIC Federal Regulations	The FDIC requires flood insurance under common circumstances.	https://www.fdic.gov/news/news/financial/2001/fil0181a.html
Lender Requirements	Lenders can require flood insurance.	http://www.fema.gov/faq-details/Flood-Insurance-Requirement/
Map Changes and Insurance Requirement	When Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) change, insurance requirements can also change.	https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/flooding_flood_risks/map_changes_flood.jsp

Historic Properties and the NFIP		
Historic properties in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) can get special exemption from some flood zone requirements. They must meet standards outlined in your local ordinance. For more information please contact your locality’s floodplain administrator to determine required documentation and then visit the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.		http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/

Grants & Assistance		
FEMA Grants	General grant information.	http://www.fema.gov/grants
	FEMA has grant programs specifically for mitigation assistance.	http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance
VDEM	The Virginia Department of Emergency Management has grants available for homeowners interested in mitigation.	http://www.vaemergency.gov/content/grants
EPA	The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a program called Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities. This program focuses on providing technical assistance to communities hoping to adopt sustainable growth strategies. The program can help localities meet multiple goals at once, such as resilience to natural disasters while strengthening the economy and protecting human health and the environment.	https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/building-blocks-sustainable-communities#background
DCR	DCR's Division of Dam Safety & Floodplain Management manages awards from the Virginia Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund. Applicants should consider applying for funding for community floodplain planning and to support CRS activities.	http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/index.shtml

Letters of Map Change	
Letters of Map Change (LOMC) provide a process by which citizens can work to have the map updated for their individual property or structure. A citizen would apply for a LOMC because the official Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) do not accurately depict their property's flood zone status, e.g. – the structure is on a hill that elevates the building above the base flood elevation but the scale of the map does not show this.	http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-2/letter-map-change

Maps and GIS		
FEMA Map Service Center	This website allows access to Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), Flood Insurance Studies (FIS), and the GIS data in the National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) Database. With this website you can also make FIRMettes - small, legal versions of a specific portion of a FIRM.	http://msc.fema.gov OR fema.maps.arcgis.com
Risk MAP	FEMA is working with federal, state, tribal and local partners across the nation to identify flood risk and help reduce that risk through the Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) program. Risk MAP provides high quality flood maps and information, tools to better assess the risk from flooding and planning and outreach support to communities to help them take action to reduce (or mitigate) flood risk. See the "What Does Risk MAP Mean For You" section to understand your role in reducing flood risk.	https://www.fema.gov/risk-mapping-assessment-and-planning-risk-map

VGIN	The Virginia Geographic Information Network creates and compiles many GIS datasets and also coordinates some funding for creating data products throughout the Commonwealth. This includes data such as orthoimagery and E911 address points which can help localities identify structures and changes to the floodplain. VGIN data can be added with the “Add Data from ArcGIS Online” tool in ArcMap. Search for VGIN.	http://www.vita.virginia.gov/info/default.aspx?id=12096
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Pre-Disaster Planning

FEMA 322 Disaster Mitigation Plans and Public Assistance Funds	Localities can create disaster mitigation plans in order to receive federal assistance when a disaster is declared for their area.	http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/25651
FEMA 421 Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction	A “how-to” guide with information for community planners regarding policies for rebuilding and recovery. Developed in partnership with the American Planning Association.	https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/2147
FEMA Post Disaster Checklist	A checklist to guide the critical early stages of disaster response. Familiarizing responders and local staff with this list before a disaster is crucial to a better recovery effort.	http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1735-25045-5766/sde_checklist_1_post_disaster_planning.doc
FloodSmart	FloodSmart provides significant information regarding flood risk, the NFIP and coverage, as well as preparation information for citizens.	www.floodsmart.gov/
Ready.gov	Ready.gov is another citizen resource that provides information for homeowners and businesses to prepare their families and properties for natural disasters. It also has a “get involved” page that highlights some resources citizens can take to help prepare their community.	http://www.ready.gov/natural-disasters

Technical Bulletins & Other Publications

NFIP Technical Bulletins	Technical Bulletins give “how-to” guidance on specific compliance issues such as flood openings, water resistant materials and making structures reasonably safe from structures.	https://www.fema.gov/media-library/resources-documents/collections/4
American Institutes for Research: Evaluation of the NFIP’s Building Standards	A cost-benefit analysis of exceeding the minimum NFIP construction standards. Very useful for builders, public and elected officials, and homeowners interested in the financial justifications of reducing flood damage risk.	http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1602-20490-5110/nfip_eval_building_standards.pdf

ASCE/SEI 24-14	This manual, prepared by the American Society of Civil Engineers, provides minimum requirements for design and construction of structures located in flood hazard areas and subject to building code requirements.	http://www.asce.org/templates/publications-book-detail.aspx?id=6963 Free FEMA highlights of ASCE 24-14 available here: https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1436288616344-93e90f72a5e4ba75bac2c5bb0c92d251/ASCE24-14_Highlights_Jan2015_revised2.pdf
FEMA Building Code Resources	This site has documents from the 2015, 2012, and 2009 International Code Series; the American Society of Civil Engineers 24-05; and more.	http://www.fema.gov/building-code-resources
FEMA Building Science Branch	A detailed resource for building codes and design information to help communities become more resilient and better able to mitigate disasters.	http://www.fema.gov/building-science
FEMA Engineering Library	This library is responsible for maintaining support data and publications for the NFIP.	https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-flood-hazard-mapping/engineering-library
Reducing Flood Losses Through the International Codes	This guidance document, developed by the International Code Council and FEMA, integrates floodplain management and ICC building codes. This document pairs well with the “Quick Reference Guide: Comparison of Select NFIP and Building Code Requirements for the SFHA”.	http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/96634 Quick Reference Guide: http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/25986?id=5701
Raise Your Home, Lower Your Monthly Payments	The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management created this resource. It briefly highlights the savings homeowners can see in flood insurance premiums if they adopt freeboard standards.	http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/ocs/czm/stormsmart/ssc/ssc5-freeboard.pdf
Residential Coastal Construction Resources	FEMA has a library of materials dedicated to providing the best guidelines available for coastal construction to reduce losses from coastal disasters.	http://www.fema.gov/residential-coastal-construction#1
Zone A Manual: Managing Floodplain Development in Approximate Zone A Areas	This guide helps community officials, property owners, developers, surveyors, and engineers determine base flood elevations in approximate A zones.	http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/7273

Retrofitting Structures for Flood Protection

FEMA publishes three guides about retrofitting properties for better flood protection. These guides are for engineers, designers, and homeowners.

FEMA P-259: Engineering Principles and Practices of Retrofitting Floodprone Residential Structures

<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/3001>

FEMA P-312: Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting

<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/480>

FEMA P-936: Floodproofing Non-Residential Buildings

<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/34270>

Training

Association of State Floodplain Managers

Click on "Training and Education" for access to a variety of topics.

<http://floods.org/>

DCR's Floodplain Management Program Email List

We send out regular notifications regarding upcoming training opportunities in Virginia. If you would like to receive those emails, contact Gina DiCicco, Gina.DiCicco@dcr.virginia.gov.

Digital Coast (NOAA)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's website helps communities address coastal issues. It includes free online training in a variety of topics ranging from sea level rise mapping to community planning. It also includes significant data resources.

<http://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/>

Emergency Management Institute (EMI)

EMI offers both online training and in-person training at the EMI facility in Emmitsburg, Maryland. All training and lodging is free. Participants will have to pay for their own food but will be reimbursed for travel expenses.

<http://training.fema.gov/EMI/>

FEMA Online Tutorials

These tutorials provide in depth training on different facets of the NFIP.

<http://www.fema.gov/online-tutorials>

Virginia Joint Permit Application

The JPA is used to multiple permits simultaneously in order to work in the waters and wetlands of the United States. It includes permits from the Marine Resources Commission, the Department of Environmental Quality, wetlands boards, and the Army Corps of Engineers.

<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/JPA.aspx>