

Know Your Flood Risk: New FEMA Flood Maps for Cape May Ready for Review. Open House Scheduled.

Public Open House scheduled for December 12, 2014.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region II office released updates to the flood hazard maps, known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), for Cape May County. These updates were preliminarily issued to Cape May County and incorporated areas on June 30th, 2014. The FIRMs identify areas that have flood risk in Cape May County. Insurance companies use FIRMs to determine flood insurance rates for buildings and their contents, and lenders utilize this information to determine flood insurance requirements. Cape May County residents and property owners are encouraged to learn more about their flood risk and the updates shown on the preliminary flood hazard maps by looking up their property's address in the "What's my BFE" tool at www.region2coastal.com.

Cape May County will hold a public Flood Risk Open House on the updates at the Cape May Convention Hall, 714 Beach Avenue, Cape May, New Jersey 08204, on December 12th, 2014 from 4pm to 8pm. Using interactive flood hazard maps at this Open House, representatives from the State, Cape May County, and FEMA and their mapping partners, will be available to answer flood risk and insurance questions, and explain the preliminary flood hazard maps.

The following information will not be available at this meeting: Disaster-related recovery efforts and outstanding insurance claims.

Please plan to attend this meeting if your property is currently mapped within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), newly mapped into an SFHA, and/or if you currently have flood insurance. If you are unsure of your flood risk, please refer to the Preliminary FIRMs which are available on the FEMA Map Service Center website, <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>, or call the FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627) or your local flood plain administrator or building official.

If you are in a high-risk flood zone, known as the SFHA, you may be required by your lender to carry flood insurance. FEMA staff will be available at the Open House to talk about these changes.

Flooding is the number one natural disaster in the United States. It is vital for property owners to understand their risk and taking advantage of tools and programs available to them. Property owners can take action by purchasing flood insurance and implementing mitigation actions to help reduce future flooding impacts.

The preliminary flood hazard maps that will be shared at the Open House are an update of the existing FIRMs, which date back for some communities to over 30 years ago. These preliminary FIRMs and the associated Flood Insurance Study (FIS) provide the basis for flood risk education and floodplain management measures. Cape May County is required to adopt updated maps to continue participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which makes flood insurance available to the community.

For additional information on flood hazard risk and the mapping process, please visit www.region2coastal.com.

Have you seen your Updated Flood Hazard Maps?

LEARN ABOUT THE FLOOD HAZARD MAPS AND YOUR FLOOD RISK BY
ATTENDING THE

FLOOD RISK OPEN HOUSE

Join Cape May County, New Jersey DEP, and FEMA to have your questions answered about:

- How you are affected by the updated flood hazard maps
 - Your Flood Risk
 - Flood Insurance
 - Flood Risk Mitigation

*The following information will **not** be available at this meeting:
Outstanding insurance claims and disaster-related recovery efforts*

December 12th 2014, 4 – 8pm
Cape May Convention Hall
714 Beach Avenue
Cape May, New Jersey 08204

For more information, visit www.region2coastal.com



FEMA



Sample Newspaper Advertisement

DO YOU KNOW YOUR FLOOD RISK?

Learn more at the Coastal Flood Risk Open House

Cape May County is hosting an open house to show new flood maps.

If you live or do business in Cape May County or in the following areas, your flood risk may be changing.

Learn about your risk of flooding and what the new flood maps mean to you.

Cape May Flood Risk Open House
December 12th, 2014 from 4 until 8pm
Cape May Convention Hall
714 Beach Avenue
Cape May, New Jersey 08204

Cape May, NJDEP, and FEMA representatives will be available to answer your questions regarding your flood risk, flood insurance, and flood risk mitigation.

Contact the FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627) or visit **www.region2coastal.com** to learn more information about your flood risk and flood insurance.

Social Media Messages

1. Know your coastal flood risk! Come <<TONIGHT, DATE>> to Open House <<LOCATION>> at <<TIME>> to view updated flood maps.
2. Coastal flood risks are changing. See updated flood maps on <<DATE>> at <<TIME>> at Open House: <<LOCATION>>.
3. Do you need flood insurance? Come <<TONIGHT, DATE>> to Open House <<LOCATION, TIME>> to view updated flood maps.
4. Learn more about <<COUNTY NAME>> County's new flood maps. Open House on <<DATE>> at <<LOCATION>>, <<TIME1>> to <<TIME2>>.
5. Everyone is at risk of flooding. Learn more about your flood risk on the new flood maps. Open House on <<DATE>> at <<LOCATION>>, <<TIME1>> to <<TIME2>>.
6. Updated flood maps now show current hazards in <<COUNTY NAME>> County. Join us for Open House. More info @ <<COUNTY WEBSITE>>.
7. Everyone lives in a flood zone. Yours may have changed. Open House on <<DATE>> at <<LOCATION>>, <<TIME1>> to <<TIME2>>.
8. Has your flood risk changed? Updated flood maps are out. Open House on <<DATE>> at <<LOCATION>>, <<TIME1>> to <<TIME2>>.

Sample Public Service Announcement

→ **30 Second** (Should be between 60 and 75 words)

Do you know your flood risk? If you live or work in Cape May County, you should attend a Flood Risk Open House to learn more about your risk and the updated FEMA flood maps. Local, County, State, and FEMA officials will be available to answer your questions about the maps and flood insurance.

The meeting is on December 12th, 2014 at the Cape May Convention Hall, 714 Beach Avenue, Cape May, New Jersey 08204, from 4 until 8pm.

Contact the FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627) or visit **www.region2coastal.com** to learn more information about your flood risk and flood insurance.

→ **15 Second** (Should be between 30 and 35 words)

Do you know your flood risk? Attend an open house hosted by Cape May County. Get answers to your questions about updated coastal flood maps and flood insurance – December 12th, 2014 at the Cape May Convention Hall, 714 Beach Avenue, Cape May, New Jersey 08204, from 4 until 8pm.

For more information, visit **www.region2coastal.com**.

Content for Community Website

Do you know your flood risk? Local and County officials are hosting a Flood Risk Open House to provide citizens in Cape May County with an opportunity to learn more about newly updated flood maps, known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). Both Cape May County and community officials, as well as NJDEP and FEMA representatives, will be on hand to answer citizens' questions about the updated maps, the mapping process, flood risk, and flood insurance.

The Open House is scheduled for December 12th, 2014 at the Cape May Convention Hall, 714 Beach Avenue, Cape May, New Jersey 08204, from 4pm until 8pm. Residents will be able to locate their property on the updated maps and view the changes as compared to the current FIRM. Once residents view this information, they can talk to members of the flood hazard mapping team, flood insurance specialists, and local, county, and state officials about the maps, the process, and flood insurance.

Flooding is the number one natural disaster in this State. It is vital for property owners to understand their risk and take advantage of tools or programs available to them, including flood insurance, to help reduce flooding impacts. The new maps in Cape May County are an update of the existing FIRM, which dates back over 30 years in some places. The FIRM and the associated Flood Insurance Study (FIS) provide the basis for communicating and identifying risk and for floodplain management measures. Cape May County is required to adopt updated maps to continue participating in the NFIP, which makes flood insurance available to the community.

As a result of these map updates, some buildings in Cape May County may, for the first time, be included in a high-risk flood zone, known as the Special Flood Hazard Area, or SFHA. This may result in those affected property owners being required to purchase flood insurance.

For more information or to access the mapping portal where you can view the updated maps, visit <http://www.region2coastal.com/preliminaryfirms> .