

NOTICE

Issued by the Department of

Planning & Growth Management

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Inspection Services

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Charles County
Government

Department of
Planning & Growth
Management

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CHARLES COUNTY FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS (FIRM)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (**FEMA**) is in the process of a Map Modernization program to update Charles County's flood maps. The new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (**FIRM**) will be based on digital technology. The preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) and the preliminary Flood Insurance Study (**FIS**) have been released by **FEMA**.

The preliminary maps are available on the internet at www.rampp-team.com/public.htm. Paper copies of the maps may be reviewed at the County Government Building. Contact Robert B. Harrington, P.E at harrinrg@charlescounty.org or at 301-645-0617 to schedule an appointment to review the maps.

To assist with this process, the Maryland Department of the Environment (**MDE**) created a Flood Risk Application tool on a DFIRM outreach website at: www.mdfloodmaps.com. Users can type in their address to see how they might be affected by the new maps. It also provides them with recommendations on what they should do in their particular situation including the advantages of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) [Grandfather Rule](#) (i.e. purchasing a flood insurance policy before the maps become effective to receive a grandfathered rate).

The maps are still preliminary. In the future, **FEMA** will announce a ninety (90) day appeal period by newspaper notice. This appeal period will be a time when citizens will have the opportunity to submit technical or scientific data to file a written protest regarding an individual property. Once the appeal period is completed by **FEMA**, a Letter of Final Determination on these maps will be issued. This is expected to occur in the fall of 2012. The effective date of the new maps will occur approximately seven (7) to ten (10) months after the Letter of Final Determination or sometime in early 2013.

Other important information

1. Flood Hazard Mapping - www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/fq_genhm.shtm or 1-877-336-2627.
2. FEMA Map Information Exchange - www.msc.fema.gov or 1-800-358.9616.
3. Specific questions about flood insurance - www.floodsmart.gov or 1-800-427-4661.

"Those citizens with special needs, please contact Theresa Green, Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management; Codes, Permits & Inspection Services, voice phone number @ (301)645-0618 or Maryland Relay Service TDD 1-800-735-2258."