Homeowners and Map Modernization

MULTI-HAZARD FLOOD MAP MODERNIZATION

July 2005

What is the National Flood Insurance Program?

The OWRB was designated by Governor Dewey Bartlett in 1968 as the coordinating state agency for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in Oklahoma. As the NFIP State Coordinator, the Water Board partners with other state and federal agencies and local governments to prevent and mitigate the catastrophic effects of flooding disasters in Oklahoma. Board officials stress implementation of land-use strategies that reduce the likelihood of future flood damages and encourage the safe conveyance of floodwaters.

The NFIP is a federal initiative that provides communities with a mechanism for implementing sound floodplain management techniques. This effective quid pro quo approach to floodplain management makes affordable flood insurance available for citizens in participating communities that enact and adhere to sound regulations that guide development in floodplains. In return, the NFIP requires the community to adopt a floodplain management ordinance containing certain minimum requirements intended to reduce future flood losses. The OWRB promotes community enrollment in the NFIP and advises the 377 current members on steps to ensure future participation. The Water Board's aggressive and proactive efforts to mitigate the impacts of flooding in Oklahoma have been consistently recognized by FEMA and other organizations as the best in this region and one of the top programs in the country. Typical flood insurance premiums in Oklahoma under the NFIP range from $300-$800 per year depending on coverage and community.

View maps online at www.fema.gov

What is a flood hazard map?

A Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) is a map created by the NFIP for floodplain management and insurance purposes. Digital versions of these maps are called DFIRMs. A FIRM will generally show a community's flood zones and floodplain boundaries as well as the elevation that can be expected for a specific flood event. As a property owner/renter, you can use this map to get a good indication of what flood zone you're in. Land areas that are at high risk for flooding are called floodplains. This is often called Zone "A" when referring to the 100-year, or 1% annual chance flood. These areas are indicated on FIRMs. A home located within a floodplain has a 26 percent chance of suffering flood damage during the term of a 30-year mortgage, as compared to a 4% chance of fire during the same period.

What is Map Modernization?

Flood maps are used to locate a property within a particular flood zone. Over the years, many of the government's flood insurance maps have become obsolete due to urban growth, changes to river flows, and even flood mitigation efforts like drainage systems and levees. Accurate information is essential to inform property owners of flood risks and to determine rates for flood insurance coverage. Map Modernization is FEMA's response to the need to update and maintain flood hazard maps. This initiative is creating digital flood insurance rate maps (DFIRMs) for more than 20,000 communities across the U.S. and Oklahoma. This five-year effort will transform flood maps into maps that are easier-to-use and readily available to consumers. When Map Modernization is complete, you will be able to print and use these maps right from your desktop. FEMA's commitment to this aggressive, multi-year initiative will save the government an estimated $45 billion over the next 50 years.

For more information contact the Mapping Coordinator at mapmod@urscorp.com or 918-582-2552 x227.

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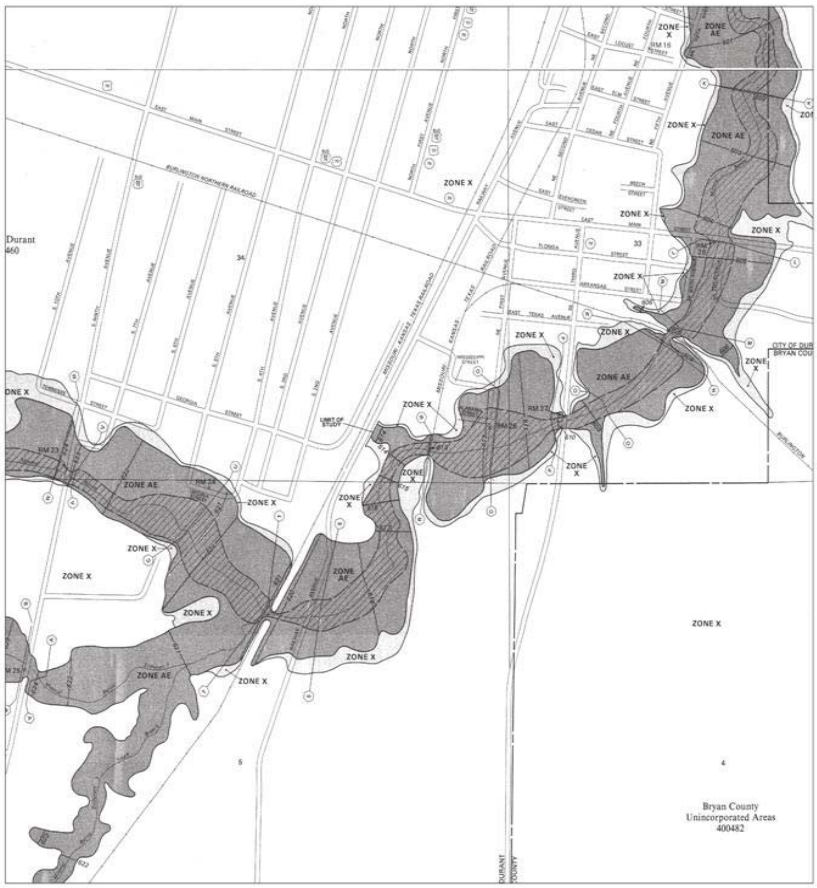
Why do flood maps need to be updated?

Accurate information about risks is the first step in preventing and reducing losses. Flood maps are a powerful tool for understanding your risks and are referenced an estimated **20 million** times annually. Today, many of our flood maps are outdated, severely limiting their usefulness. Changes to land use, including changes in agricultural use, subdivision development, urbanization, and others, all affect flooding and the accuracy of our flood maps.



Who benefits from Map Modernization?

Everyone. An estimated 30 million Americans are at high risk from flooding, and almost every American is at some degree of flood risk. Communities and developers use flood maps to determine safe areas in which to build. Insurance agents and lenders use flood maps to determine which properties are floodprone. Home and business owners use flood maps to determine their flood risk and protect their property.

Who is paying for Map Modernization?

As part of this effort to reduce the damages and costs of flooding, Congress appropriated funding to update flood maps across the entire country. In Oklahoma, the State and some local governments participate in the funding as well. Map Modernization is not financed by your flood insurance policies! By committing to this multi-year mapping effort, we will save an estimated $45 billion dollars over the next 50 years on mapping alone.

How does the public participate in Map Modernization?

First, know your flood map. You can view a copy at your local floodplain management office or county commissioners office. You can also view flood maps online at www.fema.gov. Second, understand your local level of risk. Third, provide input.

Draft flood maps will be prepared during the process and feedback from stakeholders, including the public, will be solicited. Provide comments. Let your local floodplain manager know where floods are occurring if not shown correctly on the map; this helps develop more accurate maps. You can also contact the Mapping Coordinator for the State at 918-582-2552 or by email at mapmod@urscorp.com with questions or comments on the process.

Lower Cost Flood Insurance Now an Option

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) offers Preferred Risk Policies (PRP) not only for residential properties, but non-residential properties (commercial) and renter's markets as well. The PRP is an easy-to-write policy for properties located in low-to-moderate flood risk zones, where 25-30 percent of NFIP claims occur.

Residential properties can obtain coverage up to $250,000 per building and $100,000 for contents. Coverage is also available for renters with premiums as low as $39 for $8,000 in coverage.