



MAPPING TODAY'S FLOOD RISK WHAT PROPERTY OWNERS SHOULD KNOW

Important changes continue to happen with Sarasota County's flood hazard maps. As floodplain boundaries and regulatory flood elevations change, so may how you design and construct your buildings and develop your property, now and in the future.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released revised effective flood hazard maps, known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), for all of Sarasota County on November 4, 2016. These revised effective FIRMs show the extent to which areas of the county are currently at risk for flooding from the base flood* (known as the 1% chance flood).

Sarasota County has a Flood Zone Locator Mapping program to help citizens view the extents of the FEMA designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). In addition to these FEMA designated SFHA areas is the Community Flood Hazard Area (CFHA). The CFHA is based on our local flood studies using the same criteria FEMA uses to determine the SFHA. These areas (SFHA and CFHA) are used for regulating land development and building permits.

STAY INFORMED

Updates are currently underway by FEMA as part of the Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) Program, and by Sarasota County as part of our comprehensive watershed program.

When the map publication process is started by FEMA, public notices for review and comments will be published.

Continue to follow our website for any flood map updates, including the Risk MAP coastal study update at: scgov.net/government/public-works/flood-maps

UPDATED MAPS MEAN A SAFER SARASOTA COUNTY

By showing the extent to which areas of the county and individual properties are at risk for flooding, the new maps help guide financial protection, planning, investment, building, development and renovation decisions.

- **Residents and business owners** will understand their *current* flood risk and be able to make better decisions about insuring and protecting their property against floods.
- **Builders and developers** can use the updated map data to determine where and how to build structures more safely and how high to build to reduce the risk of flood damage.
- **Real estate agents** will be better able to inform clients of the risk factors that may affect the property they are buying or selling as well as any flood insurance requirements.
- **Insurance agents** will know their clients' current flood risk and can provide more informed recommendations regarding flood insurance coverage options.

WHERE TO VIEW THE MAPS

View the current effective FIRMs and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) reports online on the FEMA Map Service Center web site msc.fema.gov/.

Or you can use **Sarasota County's FEMA Flood Zone Locator** at ags3.scgov.net/sarcoflood/ to identify your flood risk on the FIRMs. Please be advised the files are best viewed with a high-speed Internet connection.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT FLOOD INSURANCE

Contact your local insurance agent to learn more about flood insurance and your options, or visit: FloodSmart.gov.

* The Base Flood Elevation (BFE) is the elevation in feet above sea level that flood waters have a 1-percent annual chance of reaching or exceeding in any given year. In Sarasota County, this elevation data is shown in NAVD88 datum.