Risk MAP Discovery

The Goal

To work closely with communities to better understand local flood risk, mitigation efforts, and other topics and spark watershed-wide discussions about increasing resilience to flooding. The Discovery process of FEMA's Risk MAP program helps communities identify areas at risk for flooding and solutions for reducing that risk.

The Partners

During Discovery, FEMA partners with:

- Community and Tribal officials, including leaders, floodplain administrators, engineers, watershed council representatives, planners, emergency managers, and GIS specialists
- Federal, State, and regional, non-profit organizations concerned with flooding or land use
- Other locally-identified stakeholders

The Meeting

Once communities provide FEMA with local flood risk and other data, FEMA schedules a Discovery Meeting to:

- Review and validate the flood risk data gathered to date
- Discuss the community or Tribe's flooding history, development plans, flood mapping needs, and flood risk concerns
- Review stormwater, floodplain management, and other community activities that relate to flood risk
- Discuss the vision for the watershed's future, as well as the importance of mitigation planning and community outreach

Learn More

To learn more about Discovery and the types and formats of data communities can contribute, contact your FEMA Regional Office. We look forward to working with you.

Related FEMA Programs

FloodSmart
www.floodsmart.gov

Hazard Mitigation Assistance
www.fema.gov/government/grant/hma

Community Rating System
www.fema.gov/business/nfip/crs.shtm

National Dam Safety Program
www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/damfailure/ndsp.shtm

FEMA

www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/rm_main.shtm
1–877–FEMA MAP

Risk MAP Discovery

Capturing a More Complete Picture of Your Watershed

January 2011

FEMA

RiskMAP
Increasing Resilience Together

Discovery and Risk MAP

The FEMA Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning, or Risk MAP, program helps communities identify, assess, and reduce their flood risk. Through Risk MAP, FEMA provides information to enhance local mitigation plans, improve community outreach, and increase local resilience to floods.

During Discovery, FEMA:

- Gathers information about local flood risk and flood hazards
- Reviews mitigation plans to understand local mitigation capabilities, hazard risk assessments, and current or future mitigation activities
- Supports communities within the watershed to develop a vision for the watershed's future
- Collects information from communities about their flooding history, development plans, daily operations, and stormwater and floodplain management activities
- Uses all information gathered to determine which areas of the watershed require mapping, risk assessment, or mitigation planning assistance through a Risk MAP project

Local and National Flood Data Tell the Story

The data that FEMA has available at the national and regional levels only tells part of the story. For a holistic picture of a community's flood risk, FEMA relies heavily on information and data provided by the community itself.

Data FEMA Requests *from Communities*

FEMA works with communities to collect and review*:

- Areas of nuisance flooding
- Historical local flooding mitigation activities and grant projects, ongoing and planned
- Comprehensive plans
- Local development and floodplain management plans
- Stormwater management activities
- Community ordinances
- Infrastructure information, especially for levees and new bridges, dams, culverts, and road improvements
- Building footprints or parcel data
- Boundary, hydrography, and transportation layers
- Elevation data
- Flood study needs
- Regional watershed plans
- Details of the current flood risk communication process

Data Available to FEMA *at the National/Regional Level*

FEMA can access and review:

- FEMA-approved mitigation plans
- Previous flood studies
- Numbers of flood insurance policies
- Letters of Map Change
- Average Annualized Loss (AAL) information
- Census data
- National levee and dam inventories*
- Related data from other Federal and State agencies

Why Is this Important?

Because flood hazards change over time, this effort provides a great opportunity to take a comprehensive look at the components and activities that contribute to your community's and your watershed's flood risk. In addition to providing another perspective, participating in this process will increase your understanding of your flood risk and help you identify proactive steps you can take to protect your community from losses to life and property that often accompany flooding.

** Communities may also have additional data that may help explain their flood risk or hazard. FEMA asks communities to share whatever data they have to provide as complete a picture as possible.*