



GEORGIA FLOOD M.A.P. OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) flood hazard maps are one of the essential tools for identifying flood risks and implementing beneficial flood mitigation in the United States. Recognizing that many of these maps had become outdated, especially in high growth and development areas, FEMA embarked on a nationwide effort called Flood Map Modernization, or Map Mod to update these maps.

As part of a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) Agreement with FEMA, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) under the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) accepted delegation and responsibility of the Map Mod program for the State of Georgia. As the 5-year national effort ends, so has Georgia's Flood Map Modernization program, which provided updated, easily accessible digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for 159 counties and over 530 communities.

FLOOD MAP MODERNIZATION TRANSITIONS TO RISK MAP

Building on the strengths of the Map Modernization program, FEMA's latest effort in helping communities nationwide to assess their risk associated with flooding, and minimize, or avoid altogether, damage they experience in the face of future flooding disasters is called Risk MAP (Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning). This effort combines quality engineering with updated flood hazard data to help communities plan for and reduce losses due to flooding using the best possible, most current information.

Continuing as a CTP with FEMA, the EPD is facilitating the implementation of FEMA's Risk MAP Program through its Georgia Flood M.A.P. (Mapping, Assessment & Planning) program. This will provide direct management and support of all regulatory, engineering, and mapping activities within the State of Georgia. EPD is committed to developing a fully integrated floodplain management program that incorporates:



- Mapping needs assessments,
- Discovery/Project Scoping,
- Hydrologic and hydraulic modeling,
- Floodplain delineation,
- An internal quality control process for all aspects of the program,
- Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) revisions,
- Post-preliminary FIRM processing, and
- Risk Assessment & Communication

For its management plan to be effectively implemented, the State will need the full support and involvement of user communities. To ensure the full engagement of its partners, the State will commit a significant amount of resources to manage stakeholder expectations through up-front coordination, continual outreach, and customer service.

The EPD vision for Georgia Flood M.A.P. is to develop a statewide program that not only delivers more accurate and complete flood hazard information for counties and municipalities within the state, but also provides information and tools to assist communities in developing more comprehensive mitigation plans that will reduce losses from flooding.

HOW GEORGIA COMMUNITIES AND CITIZENS WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS PROGRAM:

- The updated study data will provide more accurate information for Georgia communities to help with design decisions when rebuilding after flood disasters, building new structures and infrastructure, and when retrofitting existing structures.
- FIRMs will more accurately depict flood risk information.
- Users will be able to make more precise flood risk determinations.
- 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.
- 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.
- Community officials will be able to develop a more comprehensive approach to disaster mitigation planning, economic development and emergency response, resulting in a safer Georgia in which to live and work.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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