



GEORGIA MAP MODERNIZATION OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) flood hazard maps are one of the essential tools for flood mitigation in the United States. Unfortunately, many of these maps in Georgia have become outdated, especially in high growth and development areas. FEMA has established a broad goal of modernizing flood hazard maps nationwide.

As part of a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) Agreement with FEMA, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) under the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has accepted delegation and responsibility of the Map Modernization Program for the State of Georgia. This includes 159 counties and 531 communities throughout the State of Georgia.

How the Map Modernization Program Will Be Managed

The EPD will facilitate the implementation of FEMA's Map Modernization Program through 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,
- Project scoping,
- Hydrologic and hydraulic modeling,
- Floodplain delineation,
- An internal Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) process for all aspects of the program,
- Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) production,
- Post preliminary DFIRM processing, and
- Long-term map maintenance.



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, outreach, and customer service.

The EPD vision for the Map Modernization initiative is to develop a statewide program that provides more accurate and complete flood hazard information for counties and communities within the state. At the end of the Map Modernization process, all 159 counties and 531 communities in Georgia will have updated Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) that incorporate new detailed studies, approximate studies, and/or updated base mapping. The new DFIRMs will be in a countywide format.

HOW GEORGIA COMMUNITIES AND CITIZENS WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS PROGRAM:

- The updated flood hazard 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.
- DFIRMs will be updated more quickly and at a lower cost in the future.
- Current, updated base maps and the digital format of the DFIRMs will allow users to make more precise flood risk determinations allow online access (www.georgiadfirm.com) to all maps 24 hours a day.
- 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.
- The use of updated flood hazard data by communities for floodplain management will result in a safer Georgia by dramatically reducing long-term flood losses in the state.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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