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Flood Map Modernization

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Floodplain Management

New Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps Issued

Updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps Show Flood Risks Have Changed

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released updated, digital flood insurance rate maps for public review and comment prior to their final adoption. The maps show the extent to which areas throughout Pasco County are at risk for flooding. Flood insurance and building requirements will be determined using these new maps. The new maps replace maps that are up to 20 years old.

Residents and business owners can use the maps to obtain reliable information about their flood risk on a property-by-property basis. The maps also provide flood zone and elevation data to help community planners, engineers, builders and others decide where and how new structures, developments, and remodeling projects should be built. The maps can be viewed online at www.pascocountyfl.net > Residents > Homeowners > Floodplain Management. A series of Open House meetings will also be held to review the maps:

Hurricane Expo
Saturday, June 8, 2013
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

J. Ben Harrill Recreation Complex
2830 Gulf Trace Blvd.
Holiday, FL 34691

Open House
Wednesday, June 26, 2013
4:00 pm to 6:30 pm
St. Leo University
TECO Hall and Atrium
33574 State Road 52
St Leo, FL 33574

Open House
Thursday, June 27, 2013
4:00 pm to 6:30 pm
Zephyrhills High School
6335 12th Street
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

Open House
Wednesday, July 10, 2013
4:00 pm to 6:30 pm
Sunlake High School
3023 Sunlake Boulevard
Land O' Lakes, FL 34638

Open House
Thursday, July 11, 2013
4:00 pm to 6:30 pm
Wiregrass Ranch High School
2909 Mansfield Boulevard
Wesley Chapel, FL 33543

The new maps were developed by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, in partnership with the FEMA, Pasco County and the municipalities. The process included an extensive, multi-year review of the changes brought about by environmental, land use and other forces, use of state-of-the-art aerial mapping and risk modeling techniques, and a comprehensive pre-release review.

These digital maps are also known as Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) because they are now in digital format for easier access on the internet. In reviewing the new Pasco County maps, many property owners may find that their risk is higher or lower than they thought. If the risk level for a property changes, flood insurance and building standards requirements can change as well.

Public meetings have been scheduled in June and July so that property owners can view the new maps and understand how their properties may be affected. Property owners will also be able to review options that they have and learn more about financial and material steps that they may need to take to protect their investment.

The updated DFIRMs are still preliminary and have not yet been officially adopted. In addition to the public meetings, there will be a Public Comment Period where property owners can submit appeals and protests if they can show that the maps are in error. Once all comments are received and addressed, the maps are anticipated to become effective in the Spring of 2014. At that time, the new flood insurance requirements will take effect.

Everyone can learn more about the flood map modernization project, view the new preliminary digital flood maps and find a schedule of upcoming meetings at **www.pascocountyfl.net** > **Residents** > **Homeowners** > **Floodplain Management**.

Individuals with questions about the local map update efforts can also call the Stormwater Management Division at **(727) 834-3611** or via email at **floodinfo@pascocountyfl.net**.

For information about flood insurance, contact your local insurance agent or visit **www.floodsmart.gov**.

**Stormwater Management Division, 4454 Grand Blvd, New Port Richey, FL
34652-5402**