# Flood Maps on the Internet

There are two ways to access North Carolina Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps (FBFMs), and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) reports on the Internet:

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## 1. The "FEMA Map Service Center" website:  www.msc.fema.gov
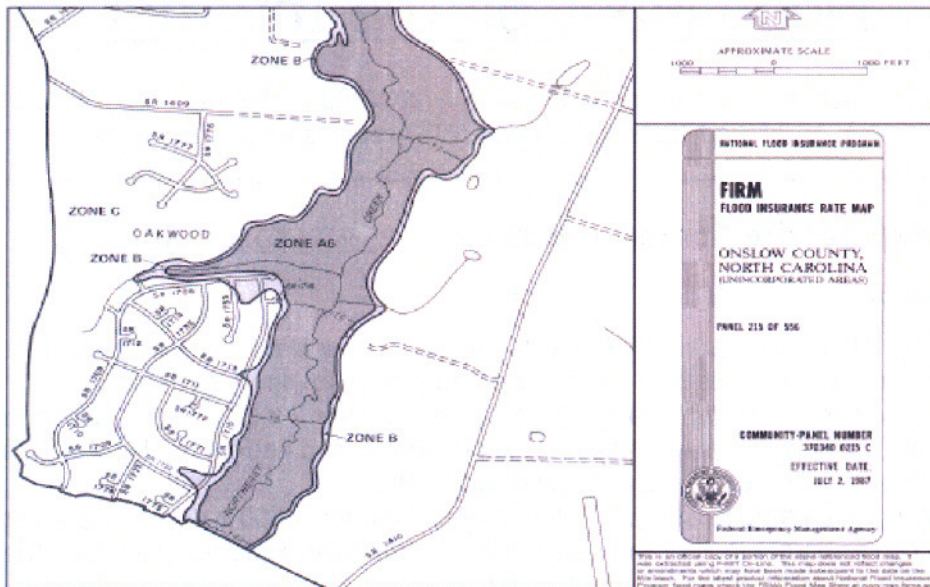
You can use this site to:

- View FIRM panels, FBFM panels, and FIS reports on-line. There is no charge to view these products on-line and it is not necessary to set up a customer account or to log in as a customer.
- View and download Letters of Map Change (LOMCs) issued after June 1, 1997. This includes Letters of Map Amendment (LOMAs), Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs), and Letters of Map Revision based on Fill (LOMR-Fs). There is no charge to view or download LOMCs.
- Order copies of individual FIRM panels. FEMA currently charges $3.00 each for paper copies, $3.00 each for digital copies on CD-ROMs, and $2.50 each to download copies directly to a "Digital Post Office."
- Order copies of FIS reports. If the county or community has FBFM panels, then the order will include the FIS report and a complete set of FBFM panels. FEMA currently charges $6.00 for a paper copy of a FIS report, $6.00 for a digital copy on CD-ROM, and $5.00 to download a copy. Fees for FBFM panels are the same as for FIRM panels.
- Order a "County Kit" or a "Community Kit" in paper format, on CD-ROM, or for direct download. A FIRM kit includes copies of all FIRMs for a particular county or community. A FIS kit includes copies of the FIS report and all FBFM panels for a particular county of community.

To purchase printed or digital flood map products on-line from the Map Service Center, you will need to create a customer account. Purchases must be made with a credit card. However, if you are an employee of a federal, state, or local government, you will not be charged.

The FEMA Map Service Center website provides three ways to search for map products:

- **Product Catalog** allows you to find products associated with a particular community. To find FIRM panels, click on "FEMA Issued Flood Maps". To find FBFM panels or FIS reports, click on "Flood Insurance Studies (FIS)". On the next page, use the drop-down boxes to select the state, county, and community you a trying to locate map products for. Then click on "Get FEMA Issued Flood Maps" (or "Get Flood Insurance Studies (FIS)" if you selected that option) to get a list of available panels and reports for the community you selected. Click the "Paper", "CD", or "On-Line" box next to the product(s) you wish to order, or click the "View" icon to view the panel or FIS report on-line. To order, click the "Add to Cart" button at the bottom of the page and the selected product(s) will be added to your shopping cart.

- **Map Search** allows you to find a FIRM panel geographically. (FBFM panels and FIS reports cannot be accessed using this method.) To find a FIRM panel, first select "Public Flood Map" from the "Select a Product" menu. Then use the interactive map interface to pan and zoom to the area you are interested in and click on the FIRM panel you wish to view or purchase. Or, simply type in a street address or a pair of latitude-longitude coordinates and click the "go" button. The appropriate panel for this location will be sent to your shopping cart automatically. Click the "Paper", "CD", or "On-Line" box to purchase a copy of the FIRM or click the green "View" dot to view the FIRM on-line.

- **Quick Order** allows you to enter up to eight FIRM panel ID numbers on the "Quick Order Page", then click the "Search" button at the bottom of the page to add the selected panels to your shopping cart. Click the "Paper", "CD", or "On-Line" box to purchase a copy of the FIRM or click the green "View" dot to view the FIRM on-line. (Individual FBFM panels and FIS reports cannot be accessed using this method. However, you can enter a County FIPS Code and/or a FEMA Community ID to order the FIRM panel kit or the FIS report and FBHM panel kit.)

You can also use the FEMA Flood Map Store website to produce another FEMA flood map product called a "FIRMette". A FIRMette is a paper copy of a user-defined portion of a FIRM or FBFM panel created from your computer. Because it prints out at the same scale as the FIRM it was clipped from, it can be used in all aspects of the NFIP.

Creating a FIRMette on the FEMA's Map Service Center website is free of charge to all users. Start by locating the appropriate FIRM or FBFM panel using the Catalog, Map Search, or Quick Order selection option. Click the green "View" dot next to the panel you wish to view. When the panel appears, click the "Make a FIRMette" button. Next, select the paper size (8.5x11, 8.5x14, or 11x17), then click on the red translucent box with the green border and drag the box to the section of the map you want to print. Finally, select Adobe PDF or TIFF Image format. Your FIRMette will be displayed onscreen and can be printed to your local printer or saved.

**CURRENTLY, DIGITAL FIRM PANELS ARE ONLY VIEWABLE ON THE MAP SERVICE CENTER WEBSITE FOR THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES: <u>CRAVEN</u>, <u>FRANKLIN</u>, <u>GREENE</u>, <u>LENOIR</u>, <u>MECKLENBURG</u>, <u>PAMLICO</u>, <u>PITT</u>, and <u>TYRRELL</u>.** For other North Carolina counties with effective digital FIRMs, only the FIRM Index panel is viewable. In the future, all effective digital FIRM panels will be viewable on the FEMA Map Service Center website.

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## 2. The "North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Information System" website:

### www.ncfloodmaps.com

You can use this site to view and download new digital FIRM (DFIRM) panels and FIS reports produced by the North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Program for counties where preliminary or effective DFIRMs have been issued. The interactive map interface allows you to pan and zoom to the area you wish to view, or click on the "Address Locator Tool" button, type in a street address, and the Floodplain Mapping Information System (FMIS) will automatically zoom to the approximate location of the address. You can print a copy of the screen image on 8.5x11 paper by clicking the "Print" tool button, but the resulting map is **not** considered a FIRMette and cannot be used as an official NFIP flood map product.

You can also view and download a DFIRM panel in Adobe pdf file format by clicking the "Download DFIRM" tool button and then clicking on the area of the interactive map where the panel is located. A pop-up window will appear with the DFIRM panel file name. Left click on the file name to open the file in a new Internet window or right click on the file name to save the file to your computer. To download a FIS report in pdf format, click the "FIS Download" tool button and then click on the interactive map anywhere within the area of the county you are interested in. You will have the same option to open the FIS report pdf file or save it to your computer. [You should disable any active pop-up blockers on your computer before attempting to download DFIRM or FIS report pdf files.]

**DFIRM Index panels cannot currently be viewed or downloaded from the FMIS website.** To view or download Index panels for counties with effective DFIRMs, use the FEMA Flood Map Store website.