

Changes to the Distribution of Letter of Final Determination Enclosures

WHAT IS A LETTER OF FINAL DETERMINATION (LFD)?

An LFD is a letter mailed to the Chief Executive Officer of a community stating that a new or updated Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) will become effective in six months. An LFD also finalizes the Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) for communities. After a community receives an LFD, they must adopt a compliant floodplain management ordinance by the FIRM effective date to establish or maintain participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

WHAT ACCOMPANIES AN LFD?

Hard copies of some or all of the following documents are enclosed in LFDs when mailed to communities:

- **Answers to Questions About the NFIP** – This publication provides information to acquaint the public with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) using a question and answer format.
- **Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44** – The official Federal regulations regarding LFDs and the adoption of flood maps.
- **Elevation Certificates** – Provides the elevation information necessary to ensure compliance with community floodplain management ordinances, to determine the proper insurance premium rate, and to support a request for a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) or Letter of Map Revision Based on Fill (LOMR-F).
- **Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Effect That Revised Flood Hazards Have on Existing Structures** – This document provides answers to questions property owners may have regarding the effects of revised flood hazards.
- **Use of Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Data as Available Data** – Floodplain Management Bulletin 1-98 provides guidance on the use of FEMA draft or preliminary Flood Insurance Study data as "available data" for regulating floodplain development.

WHY IS FEMA ELIMINATING HARD COPY ENCLOSURES TO LFDs?

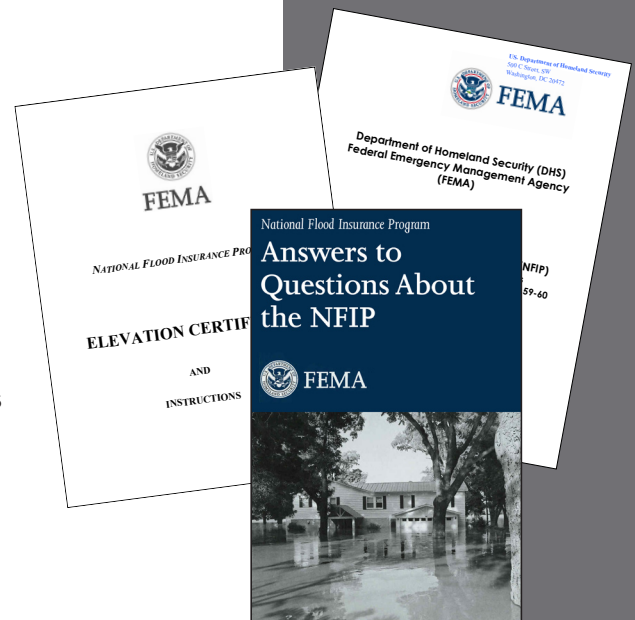
In an effort to achieve FEMA's goal of minimizing hard copy distribution of flood hazard information, starting January 1, 2009, FEMA will discontinue the distribution of hard-copy enclosures with LFDs and will make these documents available on its web site at www.floodmaps.fema.gov/lfd. In Fiscal Year 2008 FEMA sent LFDs to approximately 2,200 communities and this number is expected to grow in each successive year. By removing the documents from the LFDs and making this information available digitally, FEMA is not only enhancing availability, but is promoting its ongoing policy of replacing paper products with digital products. Additional information on FEMA's "Use of Digital Flood Hazard Data" policy is available on line at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3235>.

HOW CAN I REQUEST A HARD COPY?

Hard copies of LFD supporting enclosures can be obtained by contacting the FEMA Map Assistance Center at **1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627)** by phone, or at FEMAMapSpecialist@mapmodteam.com via email.

ACCESSING LFD ENCLOSURES ON THE WEB:

- Starting January 1, 2009, LFD enclosures will be made available to the public on the web at www.floodmaps.fema.gov/lfd.
- Hard copies can be requested by contacting the FEMA Map Assistance Center at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627) by phone, or at FEMAMapSpecialist@mapmodteam.com via email.



Several LFD enclosures will now be available on the web.

