

Risk MAP Phase 3: Preliminary Flood Map Release

GOAL: COMMUNICATE RISK

FEMA is responsible for mapping our country's flood risk. The agency and its partners do this by making Flood Insurance Rate Maps, or **flood maps**. Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning, **Risk MAP**, is the process used to make these maps. However, Risk MAP creates much more than flood maps. It leads to more datasets, hazard mitigation analysis and communication tools. Each supports communities as they work to be resilient. This fact sheet describes the third phase of the Risk MAP process – **Preliminary Flood Map Release**.

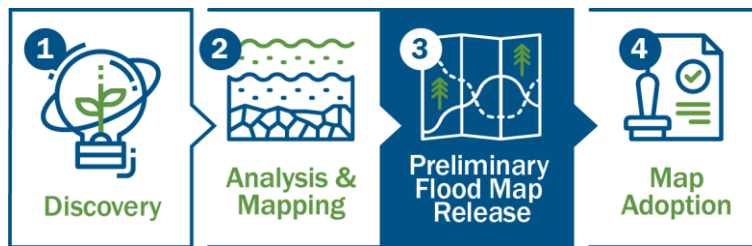


Figure 1 - The Four Phases of the Risk MAP Process

Overview

The Risk MAP project team first resolves comments on the draft work map and database. Then, your community receives a **preliminary flood map** and supporting preliminary flood hazard data for review and comment. This preliminary flood map reflects the team’s analysis of your community’s likely risk to flood hazards. It also includes the local information and knowledge shared earlier in the study. At this time, residents and other members of the public get a “first look” at the updated flood maps. They learn about their current flood risk. This is a major milestone for all members of the community. As such, the Risk MAP project team schedules two meetings. The **Community Coordination and Outreach (CCO) Meeting** is for local officials; the **Flood Risk Open House** is for residents. The goal of both meetings is to help make sure everyone understands the maps, in terms of the area’s updated flood risks. These meetings also help to share information, resources and guidance on how to reduce these risks.

Key Activities

Issuance of the preliminary flood map (and other regulatory mapping products) – The Risk MAP project team sends the preliminary flood map and other regulatory mapping products to your community for its review and comment. This happens about 30 days before the products are available to residents and other members of the public.



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CCO Meeting – With the preliminary flood map soon to be released to the public, the CCO Meeting offers all local officials a chance to learn the purpose and benefits of the new mapping data, resources and tools. It also provides them with communication resources. These resources can help them engage residents and talk about updated risks. They also teach residents what they can do to reduce these risks.

Flood Risk Open House – The Risk MAP project team hosts the Open House with help from the community. This is where residents and other members of the public can learn more about the area’s updated flood risk. It includes seeing how the new maps may change the flood insurance requirements for some properties.

90-Day Appeal and Comment Period – Your community’s formal appeal and comment period starts after the CCO and Flood Risk Open House meetings. During this 90-day period, local officials and leaders can share data to revise or appeal the preliminary flood map. Such data must show that the map is scientifically or technically incorrect. The Risk MAP project team will carefully review any appeals. If needed, the team will change the preliminary flood map.

Actions YOU Can Take in Your Community

With the release of the preliminary flood map, many of your residents will want to know as much as they can about what it shows. They will also want to know what the updated map will mean for them. Now is the time to share flood risk information and ways for people to reduce their risk. With this in mind, we encourage you to:

- Work with local leaders to use the many Risk MAP Flood Risk Products. These tools can help you explain risk to property owners. They can also help you plan for future development, evaluate evacuation routes and critical infrastructure, and more.
- Encourage residents to review flood insurance coverage options with their insurance agent.
- Make sure residents know about the Flood Risk Open House. Share flood risk details and event information on your government or community website.
- Use social media to reach out to residents and other public audiences. This can help to teach them about the updated maps and where they can find more information.
- Take extra steps to share flood risk information. Consider using community meetings, newsletters and events, local stores, and public buildings.

Know your risk. Know your role. Take action!

Everyone has a role when it comes to reducing flood risk. Community leadership and visibility can be powerful assets when promoting flood risk awareness and actions. These actions help your community become safer, stronger and more resilient.