



FEMA

Press Release

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FLOOD MAP APPEAL PERIOD BEGINS

DENTON, TEXAS – The 90-day appeal period for preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps begins today in three Harris County communities. By December 26, the appeal period will be underway in all 35 Harris County communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. The preliminary flood maps resulted from an extensive re-study of the 22 watersheds in the county. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Harris County Flood Control District lead the re-study through a partnership known as the Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project.

The new maps are based on detailed ground elevation models, decades of rainfall and storm gauge information and have already undergone thorough technical reviews. Residents and property owners may submit scientific or technical information if they believe the flood maps contain errors. Appeals are submitted through communities to FEMA, and FEMA will notify communities, insurance companies and residents of the effective date of the final maps after resolving all appeals.

“We encourage Harris County residents to look at the preliminary flood maps and to be familiar with flood risks in the community,” said Gary Jones, FEMA Acting Regional Director. “The maps can help residents make informed decisions about flood insurance and flood protection.”

The preliminary flood maps are available online at the Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project website, www.tsarp.org. Floodplain administrators in each community also have copies of the maps available for public viewing.

When the flood maps are finalized and effective, some flood insurance policy holders may see changes in their policies. Jones recommends that all policyholders contact their insurance agent or company to ensure that they have adequate coverage and that policies account for new flood risk information. More information on flood insurance is available at www.floodsmart.gov.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

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