

Online Flood Insurance Rate Maps

Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM's) are now online. You can access and print a portion of a FIRM panel (a FIRMette) free of charge.

To get to the site, follow these steps:

1. Go to www.msc.fema.gov.
2. It is not necessary to log on in order to use the site.
3. Click the "Product Catalog" icon towards the top left of screen.
4. Under FEMA Issued Flood Maps click on "Latest Available Flood Maps" or to access Flood Insurance Studies (or floodway maps in those communities where floodway maps are separate from the FIRM) click on FEMA issued Flood Insurance Studies)

To access a particular map panel:

5. Under select a State, District or Territory, enter or scroll to West Virginia.
6. Under select a County, Parish, etc., enter or scroll to the appropriate County.
7. Under select a community, enter or scroll to the appropriate community.
*Important (for a county panel you must enter the county under community)
8. Click on find FEMA issued Flood Map (step 4 under select a community).

This will give you a list of available online images of the maps. The index is the state and community number ending with "indo" (example 54005Cindo.dig). If the community has multiple FIRM panels, access the index first to determine the appropriate panel for your site.

9. Click on the green "view" button beside the panel you want to view.

When you click on the green "view" button to access the index, it will launch a new screen and the F-MIT program to view the map panel. This may take a couple of minutes the first time you launch the F-MIT program. After using the index to determine the correct map panel, minimize or close the index page, go back to the listing of panels and click on the green "view" button of the FIRM panel you think is correct.

You may also try locating the appropriate FIRM panel by initially clicking on the "map search" button instead of the "catalog" button in step 4. You can then find the map panel either by progressively clicking on the map or by entering an address. This method may not work as well on older computer systems.

Viewing and Printing a FIRMETTE

When viewing an online FIRM panel you can “navigate” by using the tools (Zoom in & out and Pan) on the left hand side of the screen. Below the navigation buttons are the tools for making a FIRMette. When you have located the general area you want to print:

1. Click the “MAX Zoom Out” button.
2. Click the “Make a FIRMette” button.
3. Using the mouse Drag the green shaded box that appears in the upper left hand corner to the area you want to print on your FIRMette and drop it.
4. Select the page size (usually 8 1/2 X 11).
5. Click the Scale or North Arrow boxes as appropriate and make any adjustments necessary so the box covers only these items (otherwise part of the edge of the map adjacent to these boxes will appear on your FIRMette).
10. Click on Title Box and be sure the long green box is covering the Title box only, not the square the title box is in, but the title itself.

A Firmette can be printed either in .pdf or .tif format. We suggest creating the FIRMette in the Adobe PDF format to maintain the integrity of the map’s scale. You should use the .tif format only if you intend to import the file into a powerpoint presentation or a photoshop program. Importing into one of these programs will allow you to indicate a particular site with circles, rectangles, arrows and text and then share the file electronically. Please be aware that using a .tif file may alter the map’s scale making it impossible to measure distances accurately.

After clicking on the format in which you want your FIRMette printed, a preview page will appear. What you now see on screen is what your FIRMette is going to look like after you save it.

11. Click the save button on the screen to the immediate left of your new FIRMette.
12. Check the “save this file to disk” box , click ok.
13. Scroll to the file on your hard drive where you want your FIRMette saved (My Documents, desktop, etc.).
14. In the file name column, enter the title you want your FIRMette saved as, click ok.
15. Close Internet window.
16. Navigate to the folder you saved the FIRMette and open it, click on your FIRMette filename.
17. Before you print change printer setting to landscape.

*Important you **must** save the FIRMette to your computer system before you can print it out, you cannot print from the online FIRMette screen.

If you have any questions, the FEMA Map Store is ready and willing to help you, they can be contacted at 1-800-358-9616.