



NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
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PRESS RELEASE CORRECTION - FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FEMA SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA MAP FOR ORANGE COUNTY

Orange County, VA – The U. S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has proposed changes to the FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area Map that may affect 2500+ properties in Orange County. The county is mailing notifications to affected property owners pursuant to §15.2-976 of the Code of Virginia. The appeals period through FEMA is currently open for property owners who wish to dispute proposed changes to their flood hazard risk designation.

Please note corrected contact information for FEMA. FEMA may be contacted directly through the FMIX call center at <https://www.fema.gov/webform/flood-mapping> or via telephone at (877) FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627) or through live chat (Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 6:30 pm Eastern Time) at https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/fmx_main.html. Orange County is also providing a link to the Preliminary National Flood Hazard data: <https://www.orangecountyva.gov/FEMAFloodMap>. Comments or questions should be submitted to FEMAfloodmap@orangecountyva.gov no later than November 25, 2020. Appeals for specific properties should be transmitted to FEMA before December 2, 2020.

Existing structures that are brought into a newly established flood zone will not have to be brought up to the flood zone building standards. However, any addition(s) to existing homes would have to be built to the new flood zone requirements. If an existing home is damaged by fire, storm, etc., restoration of the structure would have to comply with the new flood requirements.

New construction must provide for occupied floors to be one (1) foot above the 100-year flood zone, which would eliminate the building of basements below grade in flood hazard areas. The elevation shall be the higher of the following:

- (1) The base flood elevation at the depth of the peak elevation of flooding, including wave height, that has a one percent (100-year flood) or greater chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year; or
- (2) The elevation of the design flood associated with the area designated on a flood hazard map adopted by the community, or otherwise legally designated.

Additionally, revised requirements for manufactured homes (new or replacement), tanks above or below ground, and electrical, heating, ventilating, air conditioning, plumbing, duct systems, and other service equipment shall apply. A registered design professional must prepare and seal documentation of elevations.

For additional information, please contact Sandra Thornton, Planning Services Manager at (540) 672-4347.

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