



# **MDE Floodplain Mapping**

## **Maryland DFIRM Fact Sheet**

*(Prepared January 2012)*

### **Maryland County Status in FEMA's DFIRM Process**

Most communities in Maryland have recently completed or are in the process of converting their FEMA 100-year floodplain maps from a paper format into a digital product. The schedule below developed by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III lists the status of each Maryland County and includes the scheduled release date of the Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM), and the Targeted Effective Map date. The time needed to progress from Preliminary DFIRM to effective maps issued has expanded due to Federal Registry publication issues from 8 – 16 months to approximately 18 - 24 months.

In addition to Riverine studies that are being conducted on a countywide basis, FEMA has also initiated a Coastal study of the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Tidal floodplain maps are anticipated for certain counties (second page) and in some instances will be released on a separate schedule under development by FEMA independent of the Riverine studies.

**DFIRM Schedule includes updated topo in Coastal Areas (Dates are subject to change)**

County	<i>Effective Date or Preliminary Map Release Date</i>	
<b>Harford County</b>	<b>January 2000</b>	
<b>Saint Mary's County</b>	<b>October 2004</b>	
<b>Montgomery County</b>	<b>August 2005</b>	
<b>Frederick County</b>	<b>July 2005</b>	
<b>Baltimore County</b>	<b>Effective August 2011</b>	
<b>Baltimore City</b>	<b>Preliminary March 2009 – Effective Scheduled Feb 2012</b>	
<b>Prince George's Co.</b>	<b>Prelim. Scheduled Sept. 2010 – Effective Sch. July 2013</b>	
	<b><i>Preliminary Map Release Date</i></b>	<b><i>Target Effective Date</i></b>
<b>Somerset County *</b>	<b>December 2008</b>	<b>March 2011</b>
<b>Dorchester County *</b>	<b>March 2009</b>	<b>May 2011</b>
<b>Wicomico County *</b>	<b>August 2009</b>	<b>June 2013</b>
<b>Calvert County *</b>	<b>September 2009</b>	<b>December 2011</b>
<b>Anne Arundel County *</b>	<b>September 2009</b>	<b>October 2012</b>
<b>Howard County *</b>	<b>November 2009</b>	<b>March 2013</b>
<b>Cecil County *</b>	<b>April 2010</b>	<b>January 2013</b>
<b>Carroll County *</b>	<b>June 2010</b>	<b>January 2013</b>
<b>Washington County *</b>	<b>September 2010</b>	<b>November 2013</b>
<b>Allegany County *</b>	<b>April 2011</b>	<b>December 2013</b>
<b>Talbot County</b>	<b>June 2011</b>	<b>February 2013</b>
<b>Charles County</b>	<b>September 2011</b>	<b>March 2013</b>
<b>Garrett County</b>	<b>September 2011</b>	<b>March 2013</b>
<b>Queen Anne's County **</b>	<b>Scheduled Sept 2012</b>	<b>Add 18-24 months</b>
<b>Kent County **</b>	<b>Scheduled Sept 2012</b>	<b>Add 18-24 months</b>
<b>Worcester County **</b>	<b>Scheduled March 2013</b>	<b>Add 18-24 months</b>
<b>Caroline County **</b>	<b>Scheduled December 2012</b>	<b>Add 18-24 months</b>

\* Denotes MDE lead through mapping process

\*\* Denotes coastal study now set for release and include community riverine study.





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MDE acted as a FEMA Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) in most of the State and worked with FEMA to develop an enhanced riverine (nontidal) mapping process in 17 Counties (listed in blue text on previous page) that utilized several ongoing data programs throughout Maryland. These enhancements in 17 Counties include updated riverine floodplain models in both detailed and approximate (A-zone) areas. GIS-based data sets and topography were utilized to develop Geo-Referenced HEC-RAS models for all riverine flood models derived after 2005.

**Coastal Areas:** Additional updates are now underway to include a **Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coast tidal analysis** (initiated in 2009). Integration of the tidal models is reflected in the dates listed below and will be prepared and evaluated on a separate schedule by FEMA.

**Coastal Schedule ( Dates subject to change)**

<b>Coastal Region</b>	<b>Preliminary Map Release Date</b>	<b>Target Effective Date</b>
Anne Arundel	Scheduled Summer 2013	Add 18-24 months
Baltimore City	Scheduled Summer 2012	Add 18-24 months
Baltimore County	Scheduled Summer 2012	Add 18-24 months
Calvert County	Scheduled Winter 2013	Add 18-24 months
Cecil County	Scheduled Summer 2012	Add 18-24 months
Charles County	Scheduled Late 2012	Add 18-24 months
Dorchester County	Sched. Fall 2012 to Winter 2013	Add 18-24 months
Harford County	Scheduled Summer 2013	Add 18-24 months
Prince George's County	Sched. Fall 2012 to Winter 2013	Add 18-24 months
Somerset County	Sched. Fall 2012 to Winter 2013	Add 18-24 months
St. Mary's County	Scheduled Winter 2013	Add 18-24 months
Talbot County	Sched. Fall 2012 to Winter 2013	Add 18-24 months
Wicomico County	Sched. Fall 2012 to Winter 2013	Add 18-24 months

When DFIRMs depicting current conditions for Maryland counties are released by FEMA as effective, citizens may find that their flood risk has changed. Due to changing conditions, what was once considered low-risk may now be high-risk or vice versa. Citizens may find that flood insurance is required for their property even though they never thought they lived in a flood-prone area. Don't wait for the new maps to become effective. Determine your flood risk now by reviewing the preliminary DFIRM in your particular county. If flood insurance is required or recommended for your location, buying it now or revisiting your current policy is advantageous. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) **Grandfather Rule** allows citizens to save money when they obtain a flood insurance policy before new DFIRMs take effect. If your area is changing from low-risk to high-risk, purchasing flood insurance before new maps take effect may qualify you for a lower-cost Preferred Risk Policy.

To aid citizens in determining their current and future flood risk, MDE created the DFIRM Outreach Website. Visit <http://mdfloodmaps.com> and click on the icon on the right hand side of the homepage to access the Flood Risk Application. The Flood Risk Application is a step-by-step interactive tool designed to help citizens understand their flood risk and what their next steps should be based on their personalized results. **Additional information pertaining to coastal studies** is also available at <http://www.r3coastal.com> .

**Email Questions or Comments to: [mdfloodmaps@mde.state.md.us](mailto:mdfloodmaps@mde.state.md.us)**