



MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP

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KNOW YOUR FLOOD RISK: NEW FEMA FLOOD MAPS FOR OCEAN COUNTY READY FOR REVIEW OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED FOR THE PUBLIC FEBRUARY 25TH, 2015

Do you know your flood risk? Local and County officials are hosting a Flood Risk Open house to provide citizens in Ocean County with an opportunity to learn more about newly updated flood maps, known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). Both Ocean County and community officials, as well as NJDEP and FEMA representatives, will be on hand to answer citizens' questions about the updated maps, the mapping process, flood risk, and flood insurance.

The Open House is scheduled for **February 25th, 2015** at the **Ocean County Complex, Building 5 – Cafeteria, 129 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08753**. Attend the event anytime between the hours of **4PM – 8PM**. Residents are encouraged to bring their flood insurance policy and/or elevation certificates to the meeting in order to get the most accurate information regarding how the new flood maps will affect them. Residents will be able to locate their property on the updated maps and view the changes as compared to the current FIRM. Once residents view this information, they can talk to members of the flood hazard mapping team, flood insurance specialists, and local, county, and state officials about the maps, the process, and flood insurance.

Flooding is the number one natural disaster in this State. It is vital for property owners to understand their risk and take advantage of tools or programs available to them, including flood insurance, to help reduce flooding impacts. The new maps in Ocean County are an update of the existing FIRM, which dates back over 30 years in some places. The FIRM and the associated Flood Insurance Study (FIS) provide the basis for communicating and identifying risk and for floodplain management measures. Ocean County is required to adopt updated maps to continue participating in the NFIP, which makes flood insurance available to the community.

As a result of these map updates, some buildings in Ocean County may, for the first time, be included in a high-risk flood zone, known as the Special Flood Hazard Area, of SFHA. This may result in those affected property owners being required to purchase flood insurance.

For more information or to access the mapping portal where you can view the updated maps, visit <http://www.region2coastal.com/preliminaryfirms>.