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Risk MAP Success Story: Robust Outreach Leads to Expedited Updates to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps for the New Orleans Area

This page describes the successes that came about from implementing the Risk MAP process in the New Orleans area. It is intended for state and community officials, mitigation and urban planners and other individuals interested in how the Risk MAP program and project cycle can benefit their community in identifying and mitigating flood hazards.

Following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Congress tasked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with constructing the Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) to protect the New Orleans area. The massive project consists of levees, floodwalls, drainage structures, locks, sector gates, and pumping stations, all designed to withstand a 1-percent-annual-chance flood originating from river flow or hurricane surge. Complex hydrologic and hydraulic models were developed to estimate flood flows and flood elevations for 15 areas within the HSDRRS.

In 2011, FEMA collaborated with the USACE and local communities to expedite the production of updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) reports for St. Charles, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and Orleans Parishes. These five parishes comprise the metropolitan New Orleans area and are directly affected by the HSDRRS.

Approach

Continuous collaboration with numerous Federal, State, and local stakeholders was achieved through a robust outreach process involving weekly meetings with the USACE and FEMA. In addition, multiple local meetings were held with Parish officials, levee districts, and local residents.

- [Info for Engineers, Surveyors, & Architects](#)

- [Info for Real Estate, Lending, Insurance Professionals](#)

- ▾ [Success Stories](#)

- [Risk MAP Success Story: Blaine County, Idaho: A Reservoir of Effective Communication](#)

- [Risk MAP Success Story: Clackamas County, Oregon: Can Risk MAP Turn on a Dime?](#)

- [Risk MAP Success Story: Coweta County, Georgia Enhances Countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan Using Flood Risk Products](#)

- [Risk MAP Success Story: Gwinnett County, Georgia Revamps Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Plans](#)

- [Risk MAP Success Story: New York Catskills Watersheds – Partnerships and Products for](#)

Impact

The stakeholders were involved throughout the entire mapping process, which allowed them to provide data and review the results along the way. These efforts led to a more comprehensive and detailed evaluation of the area's flood protection systems that local communities can use in their floodplain management programs and future land planning.

Successful outreach efforts included a variety of status, review, and coordination meetings as well as conference calls that encouraged stakeholder participation in the mapping process. The FIRMs and FIS reports—and many other documents—for the five Parishes are available on FEMA's Riskmap6.com website.

Risk MAP Project Phases

This success story is relevant to the [Risk MAP project phases](#) listed below:

- Data and Product Development
- Distribution of Maps and Data
- Community Engagement, Outreach, and Education

Relevant Risk MAP Products

- Flood Insurance Study report
- Flood Insurance Rate Map

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More Resilient
Communities

- **Risk MAP
Success Story:
Robust
Outreach Leads
to Expedited
Updates to the
Flood
Insurance Rate
Maps for the
New Orleans
Area**

- Risk MAP
Success Story:
The Herbert
Hoover Dike
Presented a
Unique
Challenge;
FEMA
Responded With
a Unique
Solution

- Project Lifecycle

- Engineering Library

- Regional Contact
Information

- Map Service Center

National Flood Hazard
Layer

- Status of Map Change
Requests

- Forms and Documents

- Frequently Asked
Questions

- Guidelines and
Standards for Flood
Risk Analysis and
Mapping

- What's New

-

- ▶ Software
- ▶ Tutorials and Training
- ▶ Living with Levees
- ▶ Numerical Models
 - Meeting the Minimum Requirements
- ▶ User Groups
 - Coordinated Needs Management Strategy

→ High Water Mark Initiative

→ Hazus

→ Dam Safety

→ National Preparedness

→ Preparedness (Non-Disaster) Grants

→ Assistance To Firefighters Grant Program

→ Hazard Mitigation Assistance

→ Continuity of Operations

→ Integrated Public Alert & Warning System



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Text **HURRICANE** to **43362** (4FEMA) to receive hurricane safety tips directly

[Apple](#)) allows you to take GPS photos in a disaster area and upload them to us.

to your cell phone (standard message and data rates apply). See the [full list of safety tips](#) you can sign up for.

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U.S. Fire Administration

