



Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) Information for New Jersey and New York: Glossary of Map Layers and Key Terms

This document contains a description of map layers available on the ABFE maps developed for certain communities in New York and New Jersey and definitions of other useful terms.

Advisory Base (1% Annual Chance) Flood Elevation [ABFE]

The coastal water surface elevation of a flood having a 1% annual chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. It is expressed in feet referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) and can reflect the elevation of an Advisory Flood Zone V or A.

Advisory 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Elevation


The coastal water surface elevation of a flood having a 0.2% annual chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. It is expressed in feet referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88).

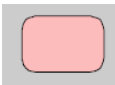
Advisory Base Flood Elevation Zones

This map layer indicates whether the zone is designated as a V or A flood hazard zone and the 0.2% Advisory Flood Elevation and the 1% Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) in feet referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAV88) for the zone. Different ABFE zones are distinguished by yellow lines.

Advisory Flood Hazard Zones V and A

The Advisory 1% annual chance floodplain includes both A and V Advisory flood hazard zones.

 Advisory Zone V is comprised of the area subject to high velocity wave action (a 3-foot breaking wave) from the 1% annual chance coastal flood. Zone V is subject to more stringent building requirements than other zones because these areas are exposed to a higher level of risk.

 Advisory Zone A is comprised of the area subject to storm surge flooding from the 1% annual chance coastal flood. These areas are not subject to high velocity wave action but are still considered high risk flooding areas.

Advisory Limit of the 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Area

The limit of the Advisory 1% annual chance floodplain. The Advisory 1% annual chance floodplain includes both V and A Advisory flood hazard zones.



Advisory Map Panels

On the interactive FEMA GeoPortal ABFE Map available through the FEMA Region 2 Coastal Outreach website at <http://www.region2coastal.com/>, the Advisory Map Panels layer shows the map paneling scheme used to produce the Advisory flood hazard information. The symbology shown for each map panel in this layer indicates its current availability:

- Green: Advisory information for the panel is currently available
- Yellow: Advisory information for the panel is partially available
- Diagonal hatching: Advisory information is not yet available for the panel.

If there is no panel outline shown on the map, currently there are no plans to produce Advisory flood hazard information for that area.

To download a .pdf version of a map panel showing the Advisory information once available, simply click on the desired map panel while the Advisory Map Panel layer is turned on and click on the 'PDF Map Hyperlink' field in the pop up window. The .pdf map panels are produced at a scale of 1" = 1,000 feet.



Advisory Shaded Zone X

The Advisory Shaded Zone X layer shows areas of moderate coastal flood risk outside the regulatory 1% annual chance flood but within the limits of the 0.2% annual chance flood level.

Advisory Zone V-A Boundary

The division between the Advisory flood hazard Zone V and Advisory flood hazard Zone A. This is where the high velocity wave action greater than 3 feet in height is anticipated to end for a coastal 1% annual chance flood. Zone V, also known as the coastal high hazard area, is subject to more stringent building requirements than other zones because these areas are exposed to a higher level of risk.



Area of Moderate Wave Action (MOWA)

The portion of the 1% annual chance coastal Advisory flood hazard area referenced by building codes and standards, where base flood wave heights are between 1.5 and 3 feet, and where wave characteristics are deemed sufficient to damage many National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)-compliant structures on shallow or solid wall foundations.

Base Flood

A flood having a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The base flood is the national regulatory standard used by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and all Federal agencies for the purposes of requiring the purchase of flood insurance and regulating new development. Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) are typically shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).



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Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) Zones

The Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) established the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), a defined set of geographic units along the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico coasts. Most new Federal expenditures and financial assistance (including flood insurance) are prohibited within the CBRS, with some exceptions. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for administering CBRA. CBRS boundaries shown on FEMA mapping products are for informational purposes only. For the best available CBRS boundary data, visit: <http://www.fws.gov/cbra/Maps/Mapper.html>. For additional information on the CBRA and the CBRS, visit: <http://www.fws.gov/cbra>.



Effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel

The FIRM is the official map of a community on which FEMA has delineated the 1% annual chance (base) floodplain or Special Flood Hazard Area, the Base Flood Elevations (BFEs), and the risk premium zones applicable to the community. The FIRM is used to determine who must buy flood insurance and where floodplain development regulations apply.

The map area shown on each Advisory Map panel overlays exactly with the boundary of the respective effective FIRM panels for ease of comparison between the two products. Typically, the effective FIRM panels are at a scale of 1"=500' scale, so four effective FIRM panels will fit within one Advisory Map panel shown at 1"=1000.'

Limit of Advisory Base Flood Elevations

The Limit of Advisory Base Flood Elevations depicts the location at which the dominant flood hazard transitions from the 1% annual chance coastal Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) to the riverine flood hazard, as presented on the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). Users should access the Effective FIRM to get further information on their flood hazard beyond this limit.

Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA)

The LiMWA depicts the limit of the Area of Moderate Wave Action (MOWA), the portion of the 1% annual chance coastal Advisory flood hazard area referenced by building codes and standards, where base flood wave heights are between 1.5 and 3 feet, and where wave characteristics are deemed sufficient to damage many National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)-compliant structures on shallow or solid wall foundations.

National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929

National standard reference datum for elevations, formerly referred to as Mean Sea Level (MSL) of 1929. NGVD 29 is used as the reference datum on some Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).

North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) of 1988

The vertical control datum established for vertical control surveying in the United States of America based upon the General Adjustment of the North American Datum of 1988. It replaces the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929. All Advisory flood hazard elevations on this map are referenced to NAVD 88.



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Provisional Hurricane Sandy Storm Surge Elevation

Observed storm surge flood elevations from Hurricane Sandy, collected by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). These elevations, expressed in feet referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88), represent provisional USGS high water marks and storm tide sensors. These elevations are provided as a point of context between the Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFEs) and the storm surge elevation from Hurricane Sandy.

