

Instructions for: Viewing FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), Floodway Maps (FBFM), & Flood Insurance Studies (FIS); and Printing “FIRMettes” on FEMA Web Site

STEP 1 – Go to web site

- Go to: www.msc.fema.gov (or go to www.fema.gov/nfip)
- click on "The FEMA Flood Map Store" button on the left (may need to scroll down to see button)

STEP 2 – View scanned Flood Map panel

To find panel by community (If you don't know the community, try “Map Search” and zoom in until you see the panel number for the area you're interested in, then go back to the catalog button.)

- click “catalog” (in bar at top or in menu on right side)
- click “FEMA Issued Flood Maps” to get FIRMs (or “Flood Insurance Studies (FIS)” to get FIS or Floodway maps)
- In drop down boxes 1, 2 and 3: Select “Minnesota,” Select county you want & Select community you want
- Click on “Find FEMA issued Flood Maps!” (or “Find Flood Insurance Studies (FIS)!”) – Note: you may need to scroll down to see line 4
- Once panel choices are shown, click the green button under the “view” column for the panel you want. (If there is a blue “+” next to the green view button (under the show LOMC column), click on that to see which Letters of Map Amendment (LOMAs) or Letters of Map Revisions (LOMRs) can be viewed online.)
- Use normal zoom features to look around the panel and zoom in to see more detail.
- If there's more than one panel, and you don't know which panel you need, the bottom panel will usually be the index (has IND in the name). You can view the index to see the panel you need, then close the window (click the upper right “X”) and view the panel number you need.

STEP 3 – Create FIRMette

- Click “Make a FIRMette” button – you'll see a map loading and the button changes to “follow instructions”
- Instructions step #1 – default size is 8 ½ x 11 (press button for other size choice, if preferred)
- Instructions step #2 – The scanned map will come up with a red semi-transparent box on the map portion, a smaller green semi-transparent box on the scale and north arrow, and a bigger green semi-transparent box on the title block. The areas covered by the 3 semi-transparent boxes are what will get printed in the FIRMette; they're basically cookie cutters. Unless you happen to want the upper left corner of the map, you'll need to move the red box (hold left mouse button and SLOWLY drag) to the area where you want the map printed. If the green boxes are too far off, you can select the “scale and north arrow” or “title block” buttons and move either of those boxes once they turn red.
- Instructions step #3 – create FIRMette – (may need to scroll down): Click Adobe PDF (or TIFF image) button and a view of the FIRMette will come up with a “Save your FIRMette” button. Click that button and you can open as an Acrobat file, and then print or save as pdf file or you may be able to save the file directly (remember where you put it!). If saved to file, bring up saved pdf file in Acrobat and print (or tiff in appropriate program)

FEMA has more detailed instructions, with graphics, on their website at: <http://msc.fema.gov/documents.shtml>

Contact Ceil Strauss @ MN DNR Waters, Floodplain Unit; 651-259-5713 or ceil.strauss@dnr.state.mn.us if you have questions or can suggest improvements to these directions.