

How to Use FEMA’s Map Service Center (MSC) Site for Floodplain Data

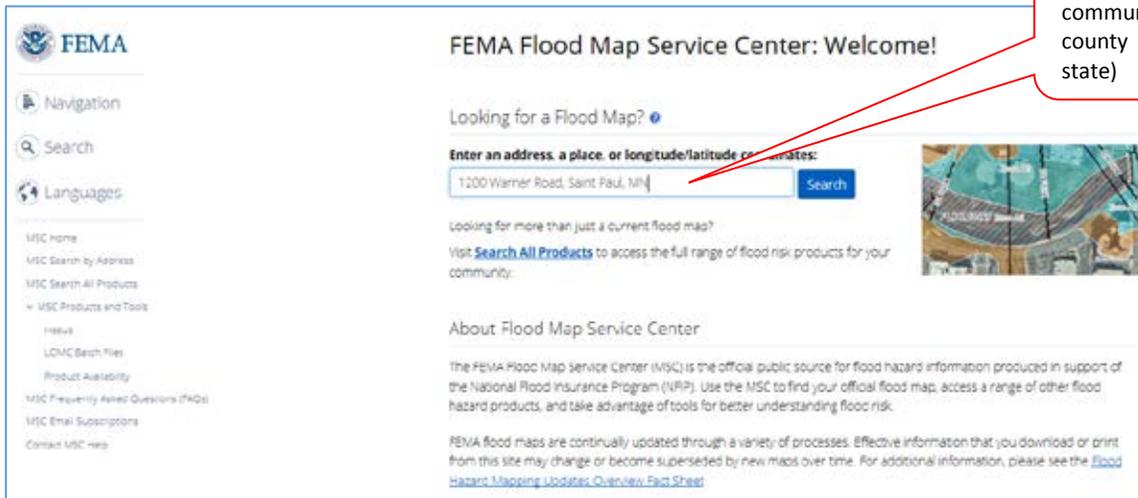
(for communities with newer, Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMS))

What is at the MSC Site? <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>

- See the official FEMA maps and studies that show the high risk floodplain areas
- See other digital products, such as Letters of Map Changes (i.e. Letters of Map Amendments, or LOMAs), or archived Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Insurance Studies
- Retrieve digital files for a specific site, a community, a county, or the entire state

Step 1: Go to [FEMA’s Map Service Center](#) or search “FEMA MSC”

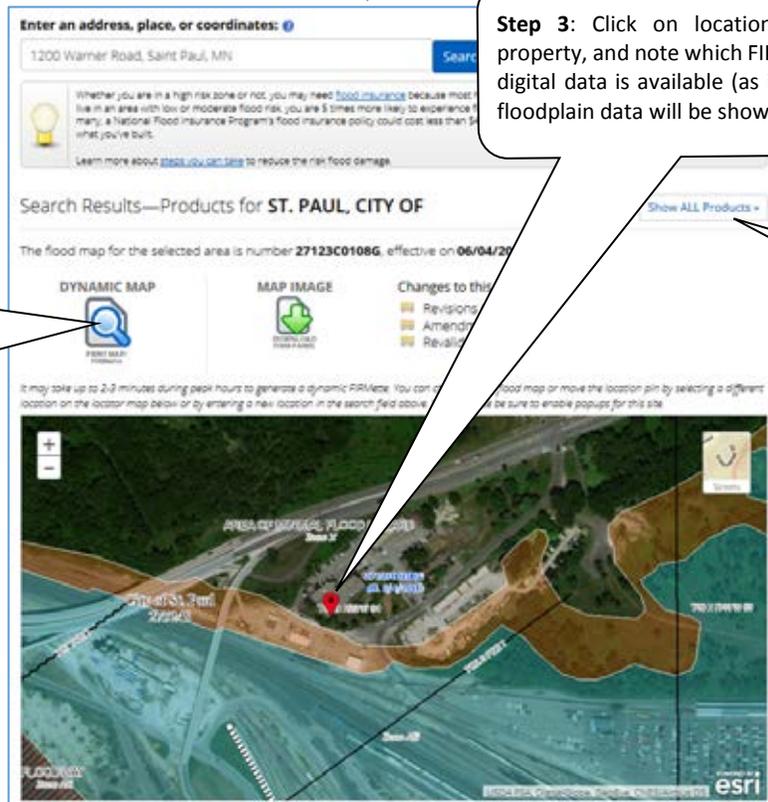
Step 2: Enter address, community name or county name (including state)



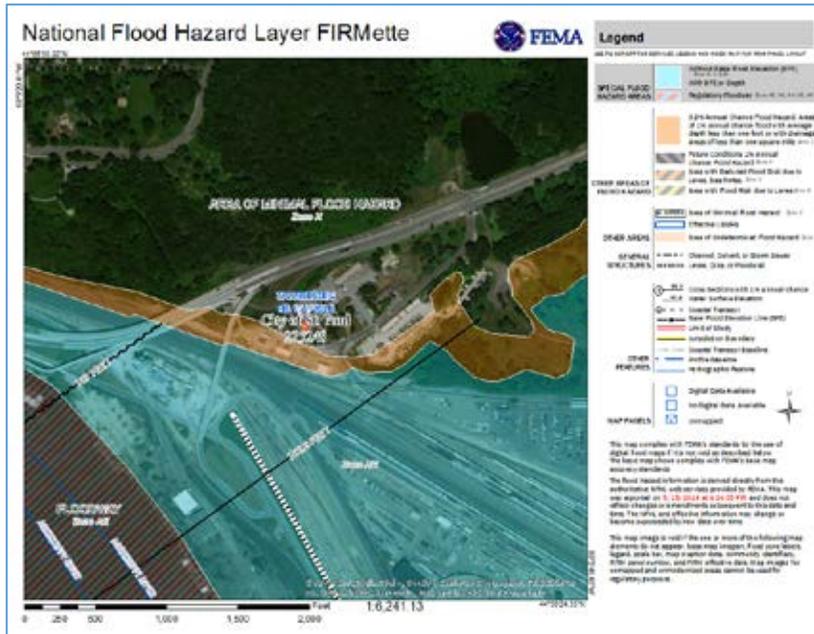
Step 3: Click on location of the subject property, and note which FIRM panel it is in. If digital data is available (as it is here), limited floodplain data will be shown on the map

Link to other flood related resources and products specific to this community (see next page)

Step 4: Link to create “FIRMettes,” which are official printable floodplain maps (see next page)



How to Use FEMA's Map Service Center (MSC) Site (Continued)



Example of what you'll see after clicking [Show ALL Products »](#) for a community

Search Results for ST. PAUL, CITY OF
 Click [subscribe](#) to receive email notifications when products are updated.

Please Note: Searching All Products by county displays all products for all communities within the county. You can refine your search results by specifying your specific jurisdiction location using the drop-down menus above.

- Effective Products (27)
 - FIRM Panels (19) [Expand](#)
 - FIS Reports (1) [Expand](#)
 - LOMC (5)
 - NFHL Data-State (1)
 - NFHL Data-County (1)
- Preliminary Products (0)
- Pending Product (0)
- Historic Products (42)
- Flood Risk Products (0)

Product ID	Effective Date	Size	Download
27123CV000B	09/16/2015	3MB	Download

Expand subgroups to view and download data

Download individual files or groups of files

- ### Terms and Definitions
- **Letters of Map Change (LOMCs)** include all the types of map changes, including: LOMAs, LOMR-Fs, LOMRs, etc.
 - **Letters of Map Amendment (LOMAs)** serve as a waiver from the flood insurance mandate. They can be issued when a structure is shown in the 1% annual chance flood zone (“100-year floodplain”), but more accurate elevation data show the lowest natural ground touching the structure (i.e., the lowest adjacent grade, or LAG) is actually higher than the Base Flood Elevation (the “100-year flood elevation”). LOMAs are issued for individual or multiple lots.
 - **Letters of Map Revision based on Fill (LOMR-Fs)** is another type of waiver from the flood insurance mandate. These can be issued when a development is elevated on fill to get the lowest floor and lowest adjacent grade above the base flood elevation.
 - **Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs)** are issued for larger changes to the maps.
 - **Revalidation Letters** are sent to the chief elected officials just before new maps become effective. The letter lists the LOMAs, LOMR-Fs, etc., that were issued in the past, and that are still valid on the new maps. These cases are automatically “revalidated” the day after the new map dates, and those landowners do NOT need to apply.