

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

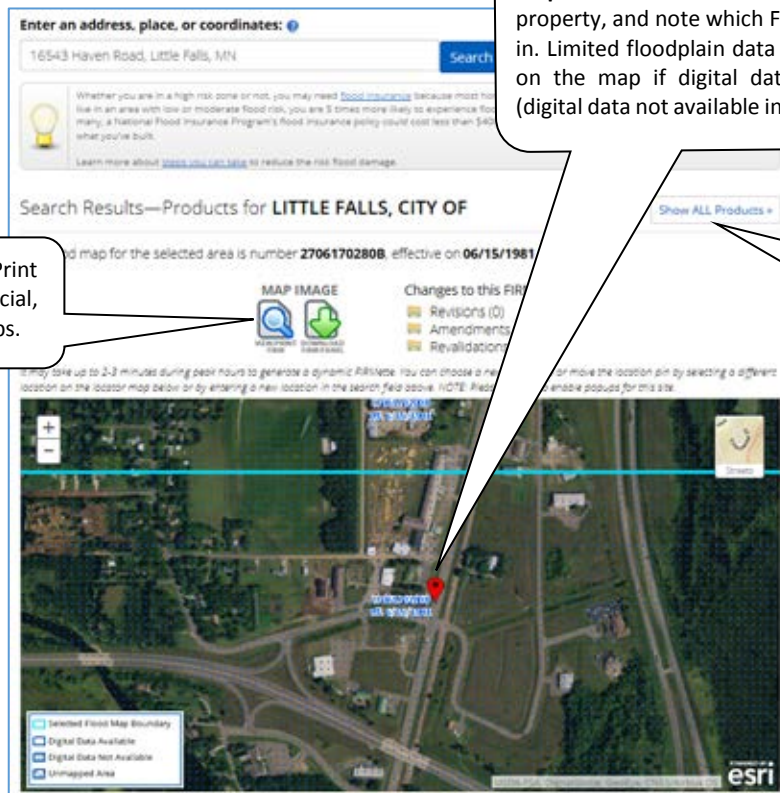
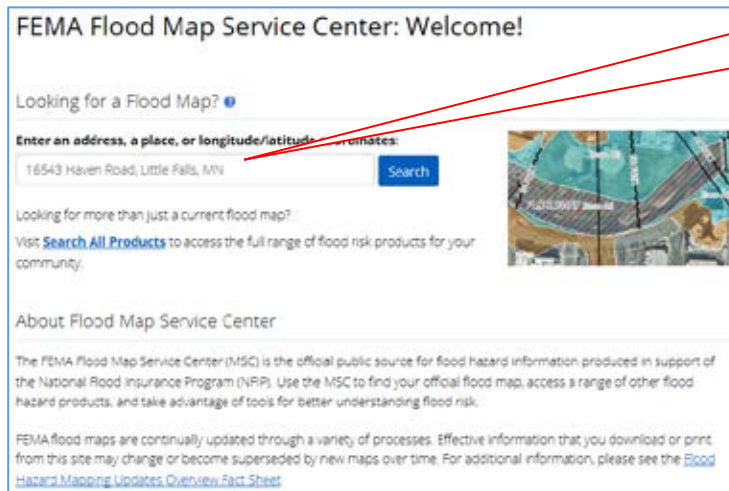
(for communities with older, paper-based maps)

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), archived Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), or 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).

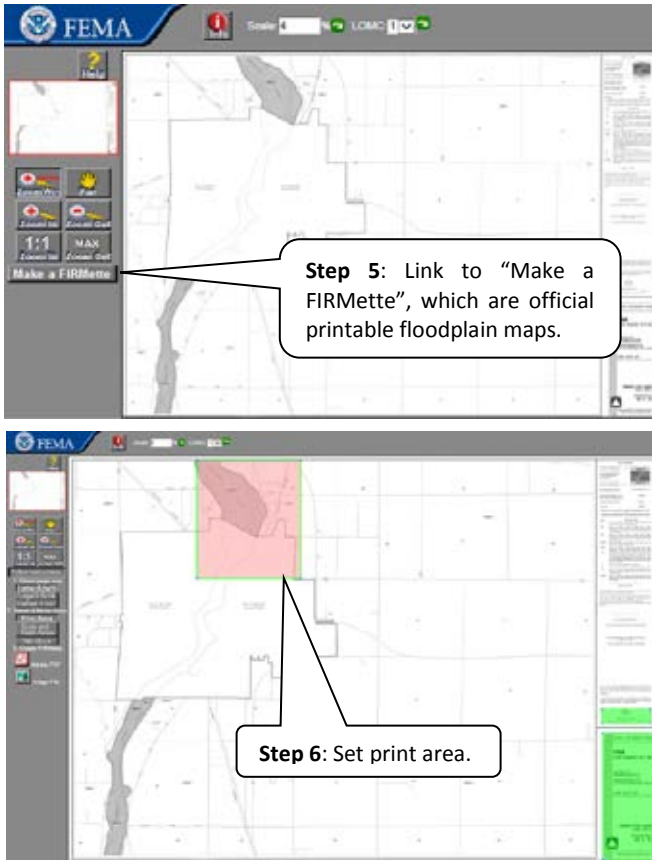


Step 3: Click on location of the subject property, and note which FIRM panel it is in. Limited floodplain data will be shown on the map if digital data is available (digital data not available in this location).

Step 4: Link to “View/Print FIRMs,” which are official, printable floodplain maps.

Link to the digital products for this community (see following page for details).

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



Step 5: Link to “Make a FIRMette”, which are official printable floodplain maps.

Step 6: Set print area.



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



Click on folders and then 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)** are issued when a structure is shown in the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) but more accurate elevation data show the lowest natural ground touching the structure (i.e., the lowest adjacent grade) is actually higher than the Base Flood Elevation (the “100-year flood elevation”). LOMAs are issued for individual or multiple lots. Note: the SFHA is the 1% annual chance (“100-year flood) floodplain.
- **Letters of Map Revision based on Fill (LOMR-Fs)** involve filling 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.