

Get Ready for New FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps In Addison County

FEMA is updating the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) in Vermont for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). **This update will cover the entire state in stages and most communities may need to update their bylaws within the next few years: tentatively by the winter of 2027.**

Some of the maps in the county date back 50 years.

The new maps will integrate the new high quality topographic data in Vermont and generate new Zone A data (without officially published flood levels) from 2D computer modeling. There will be an updated detailed study on the New Haven River.

When the new maps go into effect, FEMA requires that towns that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program have bylaws in place that meet current standards for the program. If your bylaws are not sufficient, residents will no longer be able to purchase or renew flood insurance through the NFIP. **This is a good time to coordinate the update work between the Select Board and Planning Commission and to begin meaningful public engagement around flood resilience.**

The VT DEC has model bylaws that communities can adopt. These model bylaws aim to protect your community using a **no adverse impact approach**. This approach ensures that the actions in one place do not adversely impact the property, safety, and rights of others.

Key elements of the model no adverse impact bylaws:

- 1) Room for the river: do not build closer to the stream than what is already there.
- 2) No new fill in floodplains.
- 3) Keep buildings at least two feet above the flood.

Learn more about **no adverse impact bylaws** at bit.ly/no-adverse-impact and the map and bylaw update process at bit.ly/fema-map-update.

How flood ready is your community? Generate a Flood Hazard Report at: bit.ly/flood-risk-report
This report summarizes flood mitigation efforts already being taken by your community. You can view your current Flood Insurance Rate Map at msc.fema.gov/portal/home

Reach out to us for support and technical assistance:

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