



FEMA Region 6 Risk MAP News and Information December 2014 Volume 10

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Highlights of the Redesign:

- Redesigned site was released July 28, 2014
- Biggest change: all products are **Free of Charge**
- Legacy applications have been retired, including Digital Post Office (DPO), Express Document Delivery (EDDie), and EDDie for Disasters
- Integrated Search All Products feature: Enhanced Search By Address
- Delivery of both Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Products
- Subscription Account available

DID YOU KNOW?

Over **500,000** products were distributed by the MSC in FY13?

The Redesign of FEMA's Map Service Center

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has recently updated its Flood Map Service Center (MSC) to provide easier access to flood hazard mapping information. The MSC is a web-based repository that allows users to access the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that determine floodplain boundaries and flood insurance regulations for the entire country, as well as flood risk data, Geographic Information System (GIS) datasets, and engineering reports. It can be accessed at www.msc.fema.gov.

The updated MSC boasts a significant increase in usability over previous versions, especially for first time users. Technical language and acronyms have been reduced, redundant content has been eliminated, search functions have been streamlined, and the interface has been redesigned. The MSC redesign has also taken into account the FEMA.gov look and feel to provide users with a familiar and consistent interface. Users will also notice the increased efficiency in product retrieval for the new site. Previous versions of the MSC were designed to help manage a complex inventory of paper maps and relied on outdated technology. Because maps are now fully digital, FEMA was able to update and modernize the system to focus on search flexibility and geographic search completeness, all while reducing the number of clicks to complete common tasks. The increased speed, usability, and functionality of the MSC has already yielded impressive results. Data usage has increased 400 to 500 percent over the old site.

Advanced users will also benefit from the redesign. Search functions have been improved, and some search results will link users to the National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) accessible through the FEMA Geoplatform. This means users can access digital FIRM data as well as the most recent GIS data all from the same search function. In addition, authentication requirements and fees that were needed to access some products have been eliminated. All data is now available free of charge, without the need to create a user account.

User accounts for subscriptions do still exist; however, they now require a simple email and password combination. These accounts can be used to sign up for the MSC's new subscription service, which sends out email alerts when new mapping products become available for a given area of interest. For those who prefer not to subscribe, a table of recently added products is available on the MSC site.

FEMA's development team continues to improve the site. Several service packs have already been deployed since the site launched in July, and additional updates are planned for 2015 that will further improve search result clarity as well as reduce load times. The team is always interested in receiving feedback about what is working well and where further improvements can be made.

If you have suggestions, questions, or just general comments, please contact the FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) at FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com or (877) FEMA-MAP (877-336-2627).

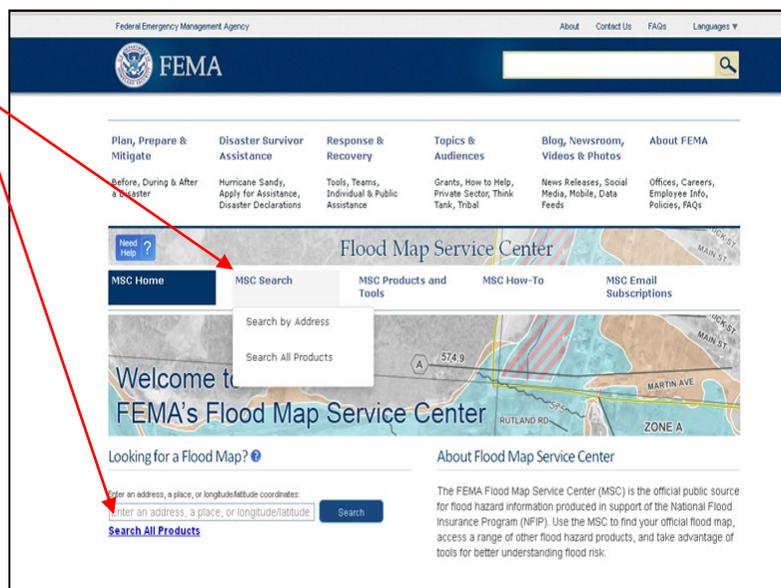


Where to Find the Products

From the HOME page of the MSC, you can find a couple of ways to Search by Address or Search All Products:

The enhanced search tools allow you to:

1. Find the effective FIRM panel and all LOMC for the FIRM panel.
2. Download products directly from the search results, including LOMCs and Revalidation Letters.
3. Access FEMA's NFHL on the GeoPlatform via a direct link (where available).
4. Get additional products. The MSC bundles multiple products and creates a single zip file.



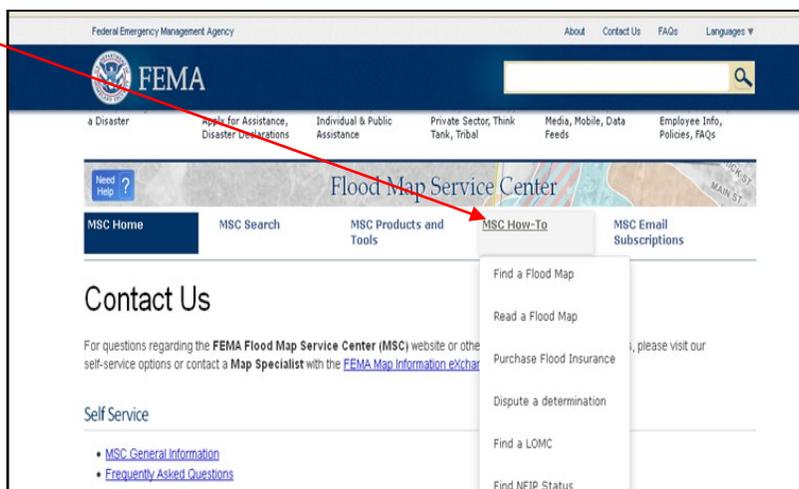
MSCs Enhanced 'How To' Function:

- Find a Flood Map
- Read a Flood Map
- Purchase Flood Insurance
- Dispute a determination
- Find a LOMC
- Find NFIP Status
- MSC FAQs, such as:

What is a BFE and how do I find it for my property?

How do I find the current effective flood map?

How does FEMA create flood maps?



Additional Resources

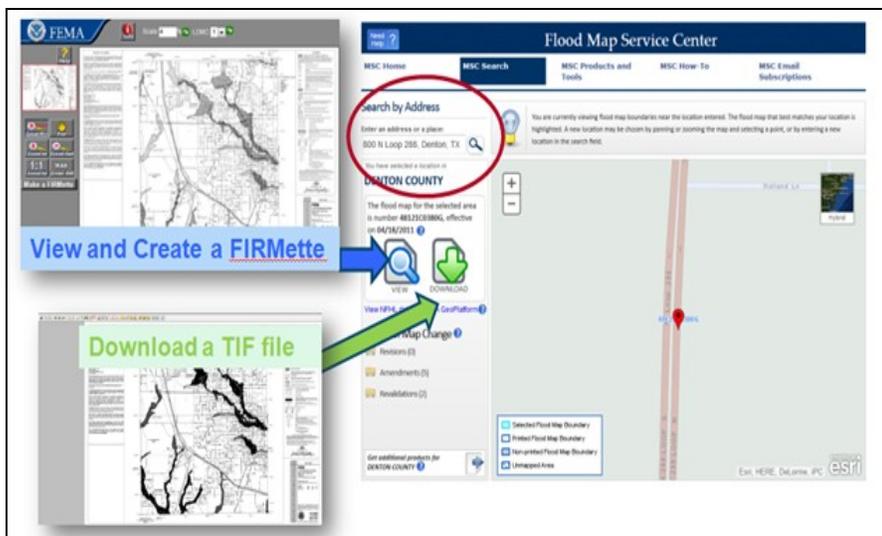
FEMA. *Map Service Center Fact Sheet*: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/96958>

FEMA. MSC Redesign Recorded Webinar: <http://floodmaps.fema.gov/systems/MSC%20Redesign%20Webinar.wmv>

FEMA. MSC Help Desk Assistance: MSCservices@riskmapcds.com

FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX): <http://go.usa.gov/r6C> 877-FEMA-MAP (1-877-336-2627), Email: FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com or [Live Chat](#)

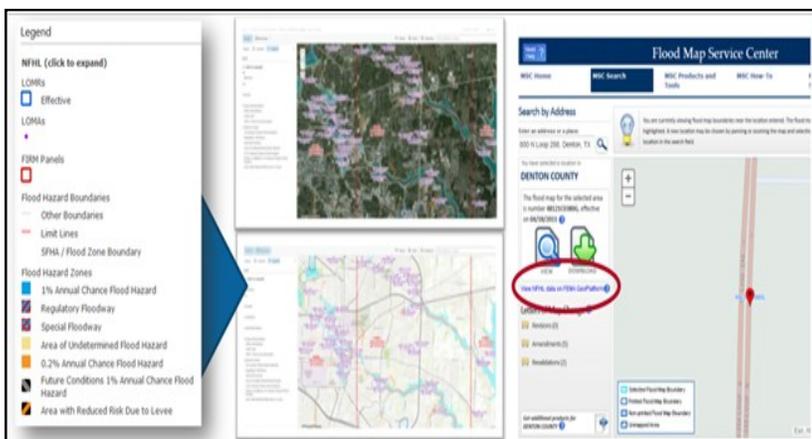
Enhanced Search By Address and NFHL Viewing Utilizing FEMA's GeoPlatform

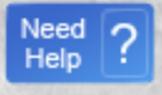


On the MSC Search tab, users have the option to type an address, location, or coordinates into the “Search by Address” box. A marker will appear on the location selected. User options to the left of the locator map will include “View” (Create a FIRMette here) and “Download,” which provides a TIF file of the FIRM.

Another option allows users to view the location in relation to the National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) on FEMA’s GeoPlatform. Different basemap options are available to the user in this tool. Available Letter of Map Amendments (LOMAs) and Effective Letter of Map Revision (LOMRs) map layers are displayed.

A link to additional county mapping products available on the MSC is found on the MSC Search tab.



Still Need Help? 

Locate the Need Help Button throughout the MSC website for general questions or assistance navigating through the website.

Get Registered and Get Started!



It takes **less than a minute** to set up an email subscription with the MSC! By setting up an account users can create and manage email notifications when new products are posted to the MSC. The best part about the customization is that information from multiple areas can be set up using the same account!

Plus all of this service is free of charge. To get started go to <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/subscription>. You will then be able to select topic-specific channels, such as the MSC, Flood Hazard Mapping, or Hazus. Don't worry if you forget your password, too. Password reset function is available for registered users as well as an option to select the frequency in which you receive emails from the MSC.