



## Gloucester Department of Community Education

P.O. BOX 1306  
GLOUCESTER, VIRGINIA 23061  
804-693-5730 FAX: 693-0509  
EMAIL: [clewis@gloucesterva.info](mailto:clewis@gloucesterva.info)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Friday, October 18, 2013

Contact: Christi Lewis, Community Education  
693-5730 or [clewis@gloucesterva.info](mailto:clewis@gloucesterva.info)

### **New Flood Insurance Rate Maps Ready**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released changes to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for Gloucester County. The FIRMs indicate flood-prone areas which insurance companies use to determine flood insurance rates for buildings and contents. If you live in or close to a flood prone area, you are encouraged to learn about your flood risk and view the preliminary maps.

Flooding is the number one natural disaster in the United States; it is vital that property owners understand their risk and take advantage of tools or programs available to them, including flood insurance.

The FIRM and associated Flood Insurance Study (FIS) are the basis for flood risk education and floodplain management measures. Gloucester is required to adopt updated maps to continue participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and make flood insurance available to the community.

As a result of these map updates, some properties may, for the first time, be included in a high-risk flood zone, known as the Special Flood Hazard Area. This may result in mandatory purchase of flood insurance for those property owners who are affected. If a property owner thinks their property has been inadvertently mapped in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), they may submit a request to FEMA for a Letter of Map Change (LOMC).

Additional information is available on Gloucester County's website at [www.gloucesterva.info](http://www.gloucesterva.info) on the left-side under "Announcements" by clicking on "Flood Protection Information." The FEMA preliminary FIRMs can be viewed at : <https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelimdownload/searchResult.action> Additionally, the link to the interactive mapping address search website, may be found at: <http://maps.riskmap3.com/VA/Gloucester/> or <http://www.r3coastal.com/>.

Continued....

In early 2014, Gloucester County will host a Coastal Flood Risk Community Open House to provide in-depth and comprehensive information for residents and property owners about mapping changes and the implications for local impact. The meeting will be publicized through various means including newspapers, radio and the Gloucester Connection County Email News subscription service.

For additional information or to seek answers to your questions, please contact the Gloucester County Building Inspection Department at 693-2744.

# END #