

PRESS RELEASE

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has issued a preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for Okaloosa County reflecting proposed flood hazard determinations within Okaloosa County and its incorporated areas. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of base flood elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory flood way.

These flood hazard determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that the County and municipalities are required to either adopt or show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Interested parties may view maps that show whether a property has been included in a flood zone, been removed from a flood zone, or had its existing flood zone designation



modified by going to the Flood Information link www.co.okaloosa.fl.us located on the County webpage: www.co.okaloosa.fl.us. If it appears a property has been included in a flood zone or has had its flood designation changed, interested parties may obtain more detailed information regarding the proposed maps at the following website maintained by the Northwest Florida Water Management District: <http://portal.nfwmdfloodmaps.com/>.

Before the determinations shown on the preliminary FIRM are effective and/or adopted, there is a 90 day period provided for appeals which began on **February 22, 2017 and ends May 22, 2017**. Appeals must be filed on the forms and consistent with the instructions provided at <http://portal.nfwmdfloodmaps.com/meetingdocuments.html> (click on the "[Property Owner Appeal Petition Direction and Form](#)" link).

The Board of County Commissioners has designated the Okaloosa County Growth Management Department as the central location to receive appeals regarding properties located **in the unincorporated area of the County**. Appeals and supporting scientific and technical information as required by FEMA for unincorporated area properties should be sent to:

Okaloosa County Growth Management Department
1250 N. Eglin Parkway
Shalimar, FL 32579

Appeals and supporting scientific and technical information for unincorporated area properties may also be emailed to the County's Planning Coordinator, Sherry Reed, at the following address: sreed@co.okaloosa.fl.us.

Owners of properties within incorporated areas should contact the jurisdictional city or town government.