Base Flood Elevation Scenarios

The “What does this mean” button in the Points data takes you to BFE Scenarios. This tool illustrates the relationship between the Base Flood Elevation and ground elevation at your point of interest, and the exposure of your home during the base (100-year) flood. Some information needed to fill in the boxes on the BFE Scenarios tool is included in the point data associated with your pins. You can find it in the Points tool and in the data table on the Print-Preview page.

For Flood Zones “X”, “X-PROTECTED BY LEVEE”, or “0.2% Annual Chance”, there is no BFE.
For Flood Zones “AE, EL #” and “VE, EL #” the BFE is the # shown in the zone designation.
For Flood Zones “AO (Depth = #)”, the practical equivalent of BFE is the ground elevation plus the “#”.

BFES for Flood Zones “AE” and “VE” are often shown at discrete points within the zones, denoted in whole numbers by wavy lines running across the floodplain.

The BFE can be estimated as the higher or lower number on wavy lines near your point, or calculated in tenths of a foot. For example (shown left): If a point is slightly nearer the BFE line labeled 27 than to the one labeled 26, the BFE at that point would be about 26.6 feet.

USGS LIDAR ground elevation is plus-or-minus 0.5 feet.

Flood Zones: www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/flood-zones

The LSU AgCenter FloodMaps portal and floodplain education programs receive support from FEMA Region VI through the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Office of Floodplain Regulations.

Contact Pat Skinner at pskinner@agcenter.lsu.edu for information about the site.