



Figuring Out Flood Hazards

Resilience Science

Effects of Flooding

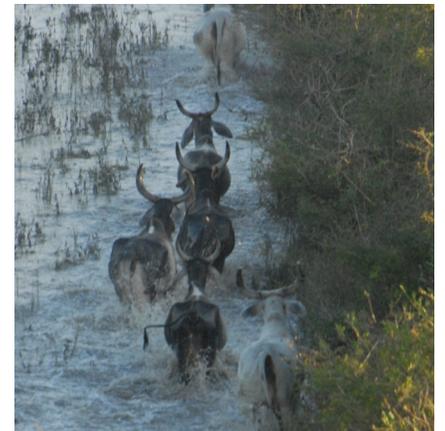
Flooding can occur almost anywhere in our country, and people are affected every year by flood damage to their homes and communities. It is important to know about the types and causes of flooding and how to make the right choices when building or purchasing a home.



Types of Flooding



Coastal: flooding that occurs along coastlines, including oceans and the Gulf of Mexico. Large lakes and bays, such as Lake Pontchartrain and Vermilion Bay, also can be affected by coastal flooding.



Riverine: flooding that occurs when a river or bayou overflows because the channel can't hold all the runoff from heavy rain or snow melt.



Ponding: flooding that occurs in flat areas where a lack of channels or poor drainage prevent water from draining properly.

Level:
Two or Three



Life skills:
Decision making
Problem solving
Responsibility
Awareness

Goal:
Educate young people about
flood awareness

Authors:
2014 Louisiana 4-H Curriculum Design
Team and Shandy Heil

Types of Flood Protection



Elevated Homes – New homes in flood-prone areas must be elevated. This can be achieved by building the house on a raised foundation of piers, piles or foundation walls or atop a mound of structural fill dirt.

Flood Barriers – Flood barriers sometimes can be used to protect existing homes from low-level flooding. Levees and floodwalls are types of barriers that keep floodwaters from entering the protected area.



Learn more by visiting LSUAgCenter.com/preventingfloodingdamage

True or False

A house built on a slab CAN be raised off the ground to protect it from future floods.



Knowing Your Risk

Learn About the Flood Insurance Rate Map

Step 1 – Go to the website: Maps.LSUAgCenter.com and Choose “Flood Insurance Rate Maps.”

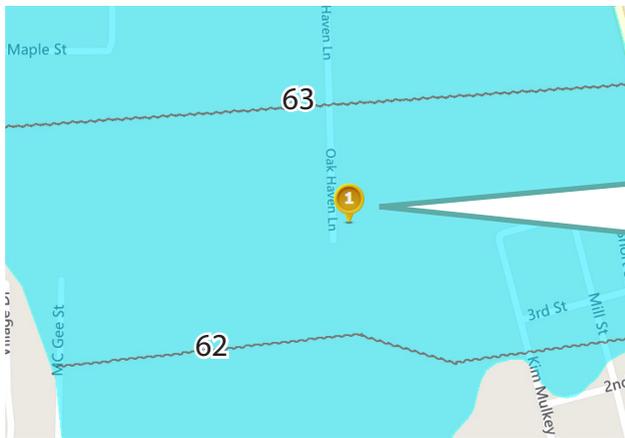
Step 2 – Select your parish (You may need to use the search tool )

You will see the flood hazard areas in your parish.

Circle the colors you see on the whole parish map **Blue Pink Gray**

Where you see pink, the map is a “proposed” flood insurance rate map or FIRM. It has the most recent flood risk information and may become the “effective FIRM.” Where you see blue or gray, the map is the “effective FIRM.” The effective FIRM is used for rating flood insurance or issuing building permits. Many parishes have additional FIRM versions you can select.

Step 3 – Search for your address. Use the layers tool  to turn on the “hybrid” map (aerial photo with road overlays). If the pin is not by your house, move the map around and click to drop a pin where your property really is. Read the point information in the pop-up box.



Point 1 (30.5799, -90.4884)

FIND THIS INFORMATION

FIRM Status: Effective, preliminary, future

Flood Zone: See choices below

Ground Elevation: In feet, relative to sea level

[Community Info](#)

[What Does This Mean?](#)



Base Flood Elevation

Base flood elevation is the water surface elevation of the base flood. For instance, where base flood elevation is a foot higher than ground elevation, the base flood would be a foot deep.

On the map above, the base flood elevations are the numbers on the squiggly lines. Point 1 is halfway between which numbers?

_____ and _____.

Base flood elevation at Point 1 would be about

_____ feet

Zones in the Special Flood Hazard Area

Zones that start with A or V are in the special flood hazard area. The special flood hazard area would have water covering the ground during the base flood, or the hundred-year flood. Requirements for flood insurance and development regulations apply to property in the special flood hazard area.

Zones A and V do not have base flood elevations. Zones AE, AH and VE have base flood elevations. Some base flood elevations are part of the zone label; others are printed on the map, on squiggly lines.

AO zones have a depth (no base flood elevation).

Zones NOT in the Special Flood Hazard Area

- D and X – Protected by levee
- 0.2% annual chance (the 500-year flood)

Knowing Your Risk

What the Flood Insurance Rate Map Tells You About Flood Risk

If the point you mapped on Page 3 is in an AE or VE zone, complete this exercise using that point. Otherwise, use this address: 2858 Gourrier Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70820.

What address did you search for? _____

Latitude and longitude of the pin by the building: _____

Flood Zone:		Ground Elevation:	GE:
If the zone label ends with EL=##, write the number here:			Static BFE=
If the zone label is just AE or VE (without EL=), use the base flood elevation example (Page 3) to estimate the BFE.			Estimated BFE=
Base flood elevation is (circle one) higher or lower than ground elevation, by how many feet?			BFE - GE=
What color is the special flood hazard area where your pin is located?			
What is the flood insurance rate map status: Preliminary , future or effective ?			

The [What Does This Mean?](#) button captures the information about your point of interest (pin). Use the BFE scenario link on that page to draw pictures of the hundred-year flood at that location, with slab, crawlspace or walk-under foundations.

The [Community Info](#) link will give you contact information for the floodplain official in your area.

Use the [Feedback](#) link to provide feedback.



References:
 Beige house: Ducky Johnson Home Elevation
 House with levee: Bossier Parish Sherriff's Office



Visit our website: www.LSUAgCenter.com

William B. Richardson, LSU Vice President for Agriculture
 Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
 Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station
 Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service
 LSU College of Agriculture

Pub. 3401 (350) 7/15

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