



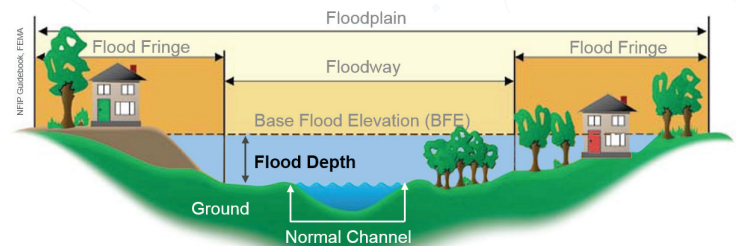
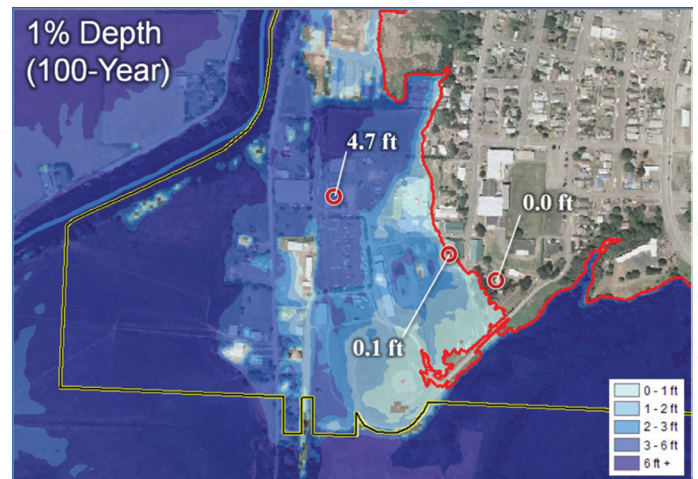
RECIPES FOR RESILIENCE: Flood Depth Grids

The Flood Depth Grids in FEMA’s Flood Risk Database go beyond boundaries like Special Flood Hazard Areas to show you the range of depths—and relative risk—across a floodplain.

Why is this so important? Picture two homes in the same flood zone with the same elevation. One might be exposed to just one foot of flooding and the other to six feet. These grids display such critical variations, strengthening your community’s ability to understand and communicate differences in flood risk.

Use the grids to plan for the standard “1-percent-annual-chance” scenario (the likelihood that any given location will flood in a single year) and other flood likelihood scenarios, depending on your project scope and data availability:

- 10-percent-annual-chance flood (also referred to as 10-year flood)
- 4-percent-annual-chance flood (also referred to as 25-year flood)
- 2-percent-annual-chance flood (also referred to as 50-year flood)
- 1-percent-annual-chance flood (also referred to as 100-year flood)
- 0.2-percent-annual-chance flood (also referred to as 500-year flood)



Flood Depth Grids benefit your community by:

- Showing water depth in relation to the ground at a specific location. This enables more targeted, effective risk communication.
- Helping building officials, property owners, and developers understand how deep a flood might be in relation to specific structures.
- Identifying areas with greater vulnerability to flood depth. This can help you prioritize protection efforts and plan for land use and capital investments.

Note: The dataset described in this Recipe for Resilience may not be available for all geographies. Please visit the FEMA Flood Map Service Center (msc.fema.gov) to check for data availability.

Put Flood Depth Grids to Work for You

FEMA's Flood Depth Grids can help you:

- Get site-specific comparisons of structure and ground elevations for building and road planning
- Highlight areas of greater risk in your community by combining the grid data with your community's own spatial data
- See the location and extent of local flooding hazards for local hazard mitigation plans
- Estimate the potential structural, economic, and social impacts of flooding

The grids also work with FEMA's Hazus program, which helps communities estimate potential losses to structures, economic disruption to businesses, and social impacts. By using the Flood Depth Grid, rather than the Hazus program, for input data, you can reduce the time it takes to run the model.

Using Flood Depth Grids

Flood Depth Grids work in ArcGIS. Simply point and click for any location where Risk Map Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) data is available.



What Flood Depth Grids are available for my community?

To learn more, visit the FEMA Flood Map Service Center (msc.fema.gov). To check product availability in your area, select "Search All Products" and filter your selection by State, county, and/or community. (Depth grids may not be produced for coastal areas where wave runup is the predominant wave hazard.)