



FEMA

August 07, 2018
R6-18-020
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News Release

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED IN CAMERON COUNTY TO SHARE EFFECTIVE FLOOD MAP CHANGES AND FLOOD RISK INFORMATION

Denton, Texas - An open house is scheduled in Brownsville, Texas for Cameron County homeowners, renters, and business owners to review map changes and look over effective flood maps to determine their flood risks and make informed decisions.

**Wednesday, August 15, 2018
2 – 7 p.m.
Brownsville Event Center
1 Event Center
Brownsville, TX 78526**

New flood maps (known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps or FIRMs) became effective for Cameron County, Texas on February 16, 2018. It had been nearly 30 years since the entire coastline was restudied. As a result, some residents and business owners saw a change in their flood risk when they became effective – some increased, while others decreased. Similarly, the requirements and costs for flood insurance may have changed.

When preparing to issue the preliminary flood maps, in June 2015, FEMA and the communities determined that a large portion of Cameron County was behind a non-accredited levee, which meant the levee did not meet federal minimum standards. To move the coastal portion of the map update forward so that new flood risk information for that area could be released, the decision was made to separate out or “seclude” the area impacted by the levee, which would still be based on the previous study.

When the new flood maps became effective in February, 2018, it was noticed that high risk flood zones covering many of the resacas (oxbow lakes) shown on the flood map in the secluded area did not line up with resacas on the new aerial photo base map used in the overall study. Consequently, some buildings were now newly identified to be in a high-risk area (known as the Special Flood Hazard Area or SFHA) and lenders began requiring flood insurance.

FEMA has now realigned these areas and issued a “Notice to Users”, explaining the realignment. To share this flood risk information, a public open house is scheduled where interested citizens can obtain more information about the coastal changes, as well as this realignment. FEMA, state, and local officials

will be available, as well as mapping and insurance specialists. There will be no formal presentation, so residents and business owners are encouraged to come at their convenience.

Effective maps can also be found at <https://MSC.FEMA.gov>. Residents and business owners can also contact the floodplain administrator in each Cameron County community for more details. For more information on flood insurance, please contact your insurance agent or visit www.FloodSmart.gov.

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