

ADVISORY BASE FLOOD ELEVATIONS DURING REBUILDING



What Are The Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFE)?

Answer: This is the NEW Base Flood Elevation for rebuilding. It has the same definition that you are familiar with - the height at which there is a 1 percent chance or greater of flooding in a given year. You have been working with this concept for many years. It is simply a recalculation of the Base Flood Elevation based on recent storm events. In other words, it is staying up-to-date on available information.

What Parishes Have Been Mapped?

Answer: FEMA has mapped the ABFEs for Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne and Vermilion parishes.

Plaquemines Parish has been mapped inside the levees on the west bank from Jefferson Parish to the vicinity of Hero Canal and outside the levee. On the east bank, Plaquemines Parish has been mapped outside the levee but the ABFEs inside the levee are to be determined.

Which FEMA Programs Now Require Using Advisory Base Flood Elevations?

Answer: The ABFE apply to four FEMA programs:

1. Public Assistance Grants –

grants to state and local governments for repair, replacement, and/or restoration of publicly owned infrastructure such as schools, libraries, etc.

NOTE: If an individual homeowner uses a FEMA mitigation grant, he must comply with the ABFE when rebuilding.

2. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) –

grants to state and local governments, tribes and some private non-profit organizations for elevation, acquisition, retrofitting or minor flood control projects. Communities can apply for funds on behalf of individuals and businesses.

3. Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) –

grants to states and communities for planning and projects such as elevation, acquisition, demolition or relocation of NFIP-insured buildings. NOTE: to get the project grants, the community must have a Flood Mitigation Plan in place.

4. Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program –

grants to states, Indian tribes and local governments for cost effective projects, such as elevations, local flood control projects, protection of utilities, relocation, storm water management, structural and non-structural retrofitting and voluntary acquisitions.

Do Any FEMA Programs Not Require Using ABFE?

ANSWER: When FEMA funds are not involved, existing NFIP standards apply. However, the Small Business Administration requires use of ABFE. And the Louisiana Recovery Authority is requiring

communities adopt the latest ABFE and use the FEMA Flood Recovery Guidance or maps in order to receive Community Development Block Grants and funding from the Road Home Housing Program.

Check with your granting agency to determine if it requires using ABFE during reconstruction.

Do ABFE Apply To Programs Other Than FEMA?

ANSWER: When FEMA funds are not involved, existing NFIP standards apply. However, the Small Business Administration requires use of ABFE. And the Louisiana Recovery Authority is requiring communities adopt the latest ABFE and use the FEMA Flood Recovery Guidance or maps in order to receive Community Development Block Grants and funding from the Road Home Housing Program.

Check with your granting agency to determine if it requires using ABFE during reconstruction.

Will It Cost My Community And Me More To Rebuild To ABFE?

Answer: The initial cost to rebuild to ABFE will be more. BUT in the long term, we can expect an average savings of \$4 for every \$1 spent.

Why Should I Promote The Use Of ABFEs?

Answer: Because ABFEs will result in building stronger, safer and less vulnerable structures better able to withstand future floods. And we all save money in the long-term.

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