

Coastal New Jersey: Rebuild Safer with New Advisory Base Flood Elevation Maps

The State of New Jersey and FEMA have released Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) maps for 10 coastal counties: Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Union.

To access the new maps, visit Region2coastal.com and click on the Hurricane Sandy tab.

With the updated maps, property owners:

- Can better understand where flood risks exist;
- Make informed decisions about elevations or about taking other mitigation steps to protect their property; and,
- Save money over the long term by having structures that are more resistant to costly flood damage.

You may also come to Borough Hall to view the updated maps

Over the next few years, flood insurance premiums may dramatically increase for structures that are not built to at least the final Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) adopted by a community. Taking action during rebuilding may avoid future premium increases.

Visit Region2coastal.com for more information.

Be Informed: Resources for Rebuilding

Before you hang drywall or put utilities back in the basement, make sure you're practicing safe and smart rebuilding methods and following local building codes.

First step: Check with your local government about permit requirements. Then, consider some online resources.

Asbestos: If you suspect asbestos, go online, and read "[Guidance Document for the Management of Asbestos-Containing Material](#)" from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Guide to rebuilding resources following Sandy: A comprehensive list of publications detailing best practices for natural hazard mitigation is available from [FEMA Building Science](#).

Other online resources:

- [Protecting Your Home and Property From Flood Damage: Mitigation Ideas For Reducing Flood Loss](#): An extensive collection of ideas.
- [Home Builder's Guide to Coastal Construction](#): 37 fact sheets for areas subject to wind and flood forces.
- [Above the Flood: Elevating your Floodprone House](#): Examples from South Florida following Hurricane Andrew.
- [Wind Retrofit Guide for Residential Buildings](#): How to improve wind resistance of existing buildings.
- [Anchoring Home Fuel Tanks](#) (DVD): Describes methods for anchoring tanks.
- [Best Build I: Building Coastal Homes](#): Safe and cost-effective ways to build coastal homes.
- [Avoiding Hurricane Damage: A Checklist for Homeowners](#): What to do before the storm.

FEMA also posts videos on YouTube including:

- [What is Mitigation?](#)

For one-on-one assistance, visit a disaster recovery center and speak with a hazard mitigation specialist. Locations change frequently. Go online to FEMA.gov/DRC to find the location closest to you.

Resources for Survivors Coping With Hurricane Sandy

FEMA

FEMA disaster assistance registration and helpline: **800-621-FEMA** (3362), TTY **800-462-7585**

Apply online for assistance: DisasterAssistance.gov

Smartphone/tablet: m.FEMA.gov/Sandy.htm

Find the nearest disaster recovery center: FEMA.gov/DRC or text “**DRC**” and your “**zip code**” to **43362**

U.S. Small Business Administration

Customer service center: **800-659-2955**, TTY **800-877-8339**

Disaster assistance website: SBA.gov/DisasterAssistance

Resources for Additional Needs

New Jersey disaster case management: **877-510-6762** or email at dcmNewJersey@CatholicCharitiesUSA.org

Cleanup resources and local recovery efforts: **2-1-1** or online at NJ211.org

NJ Helps: NJhelps.org

American Red Cross: **800-733-2767** or online at RedCross.org

New Jersey Hope and Healing: **877-294-HELP** (4357), TTY **877-294-4356**

National Disaster Stress Helpline: **800-985-5990** or text “**TalkWithUs**” to **66746**

Missing pets: **855-407-4787**

Disaster legal assistance: **888-541-1900**

Disaster unemployment: Online at NJufile.net

Union City: **201-601-4100**

Freehold: **732-761-2020**

Cumberland: **856-507-2340**