

Information about Special Flood Hazard Areas concerning

- (b) It is possible that modifications were made to a ground floor enclosure after a home was first built. The modifications may or may not comply with applicable regulations and may or may not affect flood insurance rates.
- (c) It is important for a buyer to determine if the first floor of a home is elevated at or above the base flood elevation. It is also important for a buyer to determine if the property lies in a floodway.
- (4) Ground floor enclosures that lie below the base flood elevation may be used only for: (i) parking; (ii) storage; and (iii) building access. Plumbing, mechanical, or electrical items in ground floor enclosures that lie below the base flood elevation may be prohibited or restricted and may not be eligible for flood insurance coverage. Additionally:
 - (a) in A-Zones, the ground floor enclosures below the base flood elevation must have flow-through vents or openings that permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters;
 - (b) in V-Zones, the ground floor enclosures must have break-away walls, screening, or lattice walls; and
 - (c) in floodways, the remodeling or reconstruction of any improvements may be prohibited or otherwise restricted.

D. COMPLIANCE:

- (1) The above-referenced property may or may not comply with regulations affecting ground floor enclosures below the base flood elevation.
- (2) A property owner's eligibility to purchase or maintain flood insurance, as well as the cost of the flood insurance, is dependent on whether the property complies with the regulations affecting ground floor enclosures.
- (3) A purchaser or property owner may be required to remove or modify a ground floor enclosure that is not in compliance with city or county building requirements or is not entitled to an exemption from such requirements.
- (4) A flood insurance policy maintained by the current property owner does not mean that the property is in compliance with the regulations affecting ground floor enclosures or that the buyer will be able to continue to maintain flood insurance at the same rate.
- (5) Insurance carriers calculate the cost of flood insurance using a rate that is based on the elevation of the lowest floor.
 - (a) If the ground floor lies below the base flood elevation and does not meet federal, state, county, and city requirements, the ground floor will be the lowest floor for the purpose of computing the rate.
 - (b) If the property is in compliance, the first elevated floor will be the lowest floor and the insurance rate will be significantly less than the rate for a property that is not in compliance.
 - (c) If the property lies in a V-Zone the flood insurance rate will be impacted if a ground floor enclosure below the base flood elevation exceeds 299 square feet (even if constructed with break-away walls).