



INFORMATION ABOUT SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

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CONCERNING THE PROPERTY AT

A. FLOOD AREAS:

- (1) The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designates areas that have a high risk of flooding as special flood hazard areas.
- (2) A property that is in a special flood hazard area is designated on flood insurance rate maps with a zone beginning in a "V" or "A". Both V-Zone and A-Zone areas indicate a high risk of flooding.
- (3) Some properties may also lie in the "floodway" which is the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge a flood under FEMA rules. Communities must regulate development in these floodways.

B. AVAILABILITY OF FLOOD INSURANCE:

- (1) Generally, flood insurance is available regardless of whether the property is located in or out of a special flood hazard area. Contact your insurance agent to determine if any limitations or restrictions apply to the property in which you are interested.
- (2) FEMA encourages every property owner to purchase flood insurance regardless of whether the property is in a high, moderate, or low risk flood area.
- (3) A homeowner may obtain flood insurance coverage (up to certain limits) through the National Flood Insurance Program. Supplemental coverage is available through private insurance carriers.
- (4) A mortgage lender making a federally related mortgage will require the borrower to maintain flood insurance if the property is in a special flood hazard area.

C. GROUND FLOOR REQUIREMENTS:

- (1) Many homes in special flood hazard areas are built-up or are elevated. In elevated homes the ground floor typically lies below the base flood elevation and the first floor is elevated on piers, columns, posts, or piles. The base flood elevation is the highest level at which a flood is likely to occur as shown on flood insurance rate maps.
- (2) Federal, state, county, and city regulations:
 - (a) restrict the use and construction of any ground floor enclosures in elevated homes that are in special flood hazard areas.
 - (b) may prohibit or restrict the remodeling, rebuilding, and redevelopment of property and improvements in the floodway.
- (3) The first floor of all homes must now be built above the base flood elevation.
 - (a) Older homes may have been built in compliance with applicable regulations at the time of construction and may have first floors that lie below the base flood elevation, but flood insurance rates for such homes may be significant.