



**Mississippi Emergency
Management Agency**
P.O. Box 5644
Pearl, MS 39288



**Mississippi Department of
Environmental Quality**
P.O. Box 2279
Jackson, MS 39289-1307

September 20, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Executive Officer / Local Floodplain Administrator

FROM: Al W. Goodman, Jr., CFM
NFIP State Coordinator / FPM Bureau Director

RE: **Lauderdale County DFIRM Panel Update Session**

The Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative Team (MEMA, MDEQ, and MGI, LLC) will conduct a delivery meeting with Lauderdale County and the communities of Marion and Meridian at 4:00 p.m. on October 13, 2011. This meeting is concerned with the preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map panels which have been previously mailed to the communities. These panels represent updated information which has been obtained since the adoption of the original DFIRM panels in 2010. This meeting will be followed by a two hour 'Flood Risk Open House' period for the public to view the updated panels.

The local officials of the county and the communities are cordially invited to these sessions. The meetings will be held on the following date / times and at the following location:

Date	Time	Location
October 13th	4:00 p.m.	Lauderdale County Courthouse Annex 410 Constitution Avenue Meridian, MS 39302
October 13 th	5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	same as above

I am requesting that the appropriate Board Supervisor, Mayor, Alderman, Community Engineer, Community Administrator, Community Planner, GIS staff, and any other appropriate person(s) attend the official's briefing. This is not a public meeting. We propose a one-hour session, which will inform the local officials of the method in which the state of Mississippi updated the community panels. The public is invited to view the updated panels after the completion of the official's meeting.

This "Open House" will be of particular interest to those living in or near Special Flood Hazard Areas, as well as realtors, insurance agents, developers, representatives of lending institutions, any local levee board, and members of the local media. We request that you also publicize this event utilizing whatever means you deem necessary to reach this target audience, such as your local newspaper, local libraries, post offices, community web sites, local television stations, or any other relevant organizations.

As a reminder, participation in the NFIP will require that your community adopt the new FIRM into a local flood damage prevention ordinance prior to the date when the FIRM goes into effect. We strongly encourage your community officials participation in these two events, for they will provide an opportunity for you and your staff to thoroughly review the preliminary FIS and FIRM and bring to the table any questions or concerns prior to your formal adoption process.

Thank you for your time and participation in this process, and we look forward to our continued collaboration. If you have any questions before October 13th, please contact me via e-mail at agoodman@mema.ms.gov.

Enclosure: Sample press release for your use in advertising the Flood Risk Open House which will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Lauderdale County “Flood Risk Open House” Scheduled

General public provided opportunity to find out more about flood risk management within their community.

Officials representing the Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative Team will host a Flood Risk Open House from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 13th in the Lauderdale County Courthouse Annex, located at 410 Constitution Avenue, in Meridian.

The open house will provide the public with an opportunity to review the recently revised Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and its accompanying preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that include base flood information and identification of areas subject to flood hazards within the county.

Local and state officials will be present to provide information about flood risk, flood insurance, floodplain development requirements, and the process used for floodplain mapping. Once the preliminary FIRMs become effective, these maps will be used by floodplain permit officials, builders and developers, lenders, realtors, insurance agents, and the general public to determine the minimum flood risk of the community.

Property owners, realtors, lenders, and insurance agents are encouraged to attend and take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about flood risk and hazard mitigation within your community.

The maps can impact you directly, please contact your community Floodplain Administrator to learn if your home or business is located within a high hazard area, which will require flood insurance if you have a federally backed loan.