



PRESS RELEASE

FEBRUARY 2009

MARATHON COUNTY FLOOD RISK INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED

The general public is invited to review preliminary floodplain maps and learn about risk in their community. There will be no formal presentation, so those interested may drop in during this event to talk one-on-one with FEMA and State DNR representatives.

CHICAGO – Representatives from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, will be hosting a Flood Risk Information Open House on Thursday, February 19, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at 212 River Dr., Wausau, WI. The Open House will provide county residents with an opportunity to review a recently completed preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and its accompanying preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).

The FIS and FIRMs provide base flood information, delineate areas subject to significant flood hazards within the county, and offer information public officials may use when permitting development in the floodplain.

The Open House will be staffed with representatives from various local, state and federal agencies who will provide the most current information about flood risk, flood insurance, floodplain development regulations, and the process for floodplain mapping within Marathon County. The newly prepared preliminary floodplain maps will be on display. Once the maps become effective, these maps will be used by floodplain permit officials, builders and developers, lenders, realtors, insurance agents and the general public to determine flood risk, develop mitigation measures, and encourage wise and responsible risk management decision-making.

Property owners, realtors, lenders and insurance agents are urged to attend and take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about flood risk and hazard mitigation within their community. For more information, contact Joel Intrieri, Natural Hazards Program Specialist at (312)408-5220 or David Schein, Regional Flood Insurance Liaison at (312)408-5539.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terrorism.