



**Case Concentration:** Through FEMA's Cooperating Technical Partner's Program, The University of New Hampshire's Complex System Research Center serves two counties by converting 151 flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs) to digital format.

### Scope of the Project:



Like most States, New Hampshire's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are aging. Seventy-five percent of the State's FIRMs are greater than 11 years old. New Hampshire is aware that as the maps get older, the less they reflect recent community development and the associated impact on flood hazards. To facilitate updating some of its maps, the Complex Systems Research Center (CSRC), a branch of the University of New Hampshire, signed a pilot agreement in 1999, with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Cooperating Technical Communities (now Cooperating Technical Partners [CTP]) program. The objective of the agreement was the conversion of effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for three New

Hampshire communities to a digital format that conforms to FEMA's new digital FIRM specifications. The agreement covered the digitization of 10 FIRM panels for the communities in two counties. Under the agreement, CSRC also incorporated the results of Letters of Map Change that had been issued by FEMA since the publication of the effective FIRMs for the three communities.

### Mapping Activity:

In 2000, CSRC and FEMA entered into a new Digital FIRM preparation agreement. This new agreement is for the digitization of 81 FIRM panels for Rockingham County and 70 FIRM panels for Strafford County, New Hampshire.

The digital format will make the maps easier to obtain and use; and, for communities with digital mapping capabilities, the Digital FIRMs will support floodplain management and preparedness programs. In addition, the base maps for the digital FIRMs will be U.S. Geological Survey Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangles, which are more accurate and current than the base maps used for the effective FIRMs.

### Outreach: Activities

The project will enable the CSRC, which is highly respected for its mapping capabilities throughout New England, to expand its expertise into new types of mapping. In addition, the project will help FEMA meet two of the goals of its Map Modernization Program: converting the map inventory to a digital format and increasing local involvement in the mapping process.

### Tools

The State of New Hampshire has produced materials that are designed to involve community officials and other stakeholders, while promoting the area's flood hazard program.

- **Meeting Materials**
  - **Calendar:** Upcoming National Flood Insurance Program workshops for surveyors and engineers are listed on the State's website. More meetings are offered for professionals in the insurance and banking businesses.
- **State Assisted Support:**
  - **Technical information**
  - **Model ordinances** to communities interested in joining the NFIP, as well as to participating communities
  - **Flood mitigation assistance**
  - **Forms, bulletins, and brochures**
  - **Community status lists**
- **Website Development:** The State of New Hampshire has built a solid foundation of website material (<http://www.state.nh.us/osp/NFIP/homepage.html>). The website is mainly used by community officials. Community officials can find out what they need to know about the NFIP and can get assistance customizing the State's model floodplain development ordinance.
  - **Creating Links to Additional Websites:** The State's site shows its greatest strength with its availability of links to important community material, such as floodplain maps and studies.
- **MNUSS:** New Hampshire communities have submitted mapping needs assessment data, which were incorporated into FEMA's Mapping Needs Update Support System (MNUSS). MNUSS is used to prioritize and rank potential mapping projects.
  - **Summaries of map actions** and floodplain administrators' information was prepared for each community. CTP communities, 35 of them, were also identified and their entries were highlighted.
  - **MNUSS** further identified the high-risk communities in New Hampshire in need of mapping updates.
- **Products:**
  - **Maps** with demographics were prepared for and distributed to community officials.
  - **Mapping needs assessments** were prepared for 51 communities within 9 counties. Distance of study and flooding sources were identified for this tool.

## Results

Currently, the State of New Hampshire is spending its resources on educating community officials on such issues as State mapping needs and how to promote community official involvement.



*"A Nation Prepared" is FEMA's vision, and all at FEMA are dedicated in its mission to lead America in preparing for, preventing, responding to and recovering from disasters. If you would like more information on FEMA's Multi-Hazard Flood Map Modernization Initiative and how we may provide expert resources for you and your community, please visit our website at <http://www.fema.gov/fhm> or call 1-877-FEMA-MAP. You may view flood hazard maps at the FEMA Map store - <http://www.msc.fema.gov/>.*