

# News Release

## **Digital Preliminary Flood Hazard Maps for Pinellas County Are Ready for Public Viewing** *Attend an Open House and Learn about Flood Risks in Your Community*

**ATLANTA-** Residents and property owners in Pinellas County can see draft preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for coastal areas at four Flood Risk Open Houses taking place September 25 – 27, 2018.

FIRMs show the extent and risk for flooding. The FIRMs will be used to determine flood insurance premiums and building requirements.

Learn about your risk of flooding and ask questions about what the new maps will mean for your property. You can meet one-on-one with specialists to discuss flood risk, flood insurance, appeals, mitigation, and engineering. Home and business owners, renters, real estate agents, mortgage lenders, surveyors and insurance agents are encouraged to attend.

The Flood Risk Open Houses will take place at the following dates, times and locations:

### **Tuesday, September 25:**

6 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
YMCA at Lealman Community Center  
5175 45th Street North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33714

### **Wednesday, September 26:**

6 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
Countryside Recreation Center  
2640 Sabal Springs Drive  
Clearwater, FL 33761

### **Thursday, September 27:**

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Seminole Recreation Center  
9100 113th St North  
Seminole, FL 33772

6 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
Seminole Recreation Center  
9100 113th St North  
Seminole, FL 33772

The new preliminary FIRMs were developed through a partnership between the communities and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. They are based on updated modeling data and show coastal flood hazards more accurately than older maps.

The goal is to inform property owners and the community of their flood risks. Over time, flood risks change due to construction and development, environmental changes, watershed conditions and other factors. Flood maps are updated periodically to reflect these changes.

By law, federally regulated or insured mortgage lenders require flood insurance on buildings that are located in areas at high risk of flooding. Standard homeowners, business owners, and renters' insurance policies typically don't cover flood damage; consequently, flood insurance is an important consideration for everyone subject to coastal flood risks. Flood insurance policies can be purchased from any state-licensed property and casualty insurance agent. Call the National Flood Insurance Program Help Center at 800-427-4661 or visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) for more information.

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