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To: Construction Officials

Subject: Advisory Base Flood Elevations and Construction Requirements

As many of you know, FEMA has issued Advisory Base Flood Elevations for Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Union Counties. These new numbers impact new construction and the restoration of buildings determined by the floodplain administrator to be substantially damaged as defined in federal rules. The new flood maps also impact the boundaries of the A zone, including the creation of a coastal A zone, and the V zone, a change which also affects the associated construction requirements. This applies to both residential and nonresidential structures.

As construction officials, you are not responsible for making substantial damage or building elevation determinations. However, residents, contractors and business owners in your towns expect that you will be knowledgeable and be able to answer their questions. For now, please make everyone aware of these new Advisory Base Flood Elevations. Do not issue any permits without the required prior approval to be supplied by the local floodplain administrator. The substantial damage determination must be made by the floodplain administrator and disseminated to the applicant using forms to be determined by the town so that the attendant requirements are known. The base flood elevation and zone to be used also must be known. We are in constant contact with DEP and with FEMA. **As soon as we have further information, we will share it with you.**

For floodplain administrators and code officials who act as floodplain administrators: FEMA is gearing up to provide training in the use of its substantial damage estimating tool and technical assistance to collect data for up to 7,000 structures. Teams will be ready to go right after the first of January. Local floodplain administrators should call Nancy Mikoda at 225-910-4592. She is with the Hazard Mitigation-Floodplain Management & Insurance Group at the Joint Field Office in Lincroft.

If you are not also serving as the floodplain administrator, please pass the above information along.

