How to Look Up A Regulatory “Effective” Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)

Google “FEMA FIRM”

Or go to https://msc.fema.gov/portal

Type in the address to get the relevant **effective** map
Effective FIRM, Pt 2

1. Left click on the map to move the site marker

2. Select “view” option on left
Use the lefthand toolbar to Make a FIRMette
Locate Preliminary Map Panels and Flood Insurance Studies on the FEMA Map Service Center

Google “FEMA Preliminary Map” or go to: www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata

1. Select “Maine”
2. Select your county
3. On the next page, scroll to the bottom of the list of PDFs to one starting with “IND” for index. Use the Index map to locate the relevant map panel.
Go to the Floodplain Mapping Resources page, located at: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/flood/mapping.shtml

Click the link for the Maine Flood Hazard Map

1. Use the address input bar in the upper left to search for a site
2. Open the layer list in the upper right (the icon that looks like a stack of papers) and make sure the Q3 layers are unchecked, and the Preliminary layers are checked.
In the “Layer List”
Uncheck the box to the left of “Maine Flood Zones Q3”
Check the box to the left of “Maine Flood Zones Preliminary”

Notes:
Q3 data is a very rough approximation of the existing flood zone. Consult the effective FIRM for more precise flood zone depiction.
To access panel maps that are no longer “preliminary” and are scheduled to go final, use the FEMA Map Service Center:

http://msc.fema.gov/portal/advanceSearch

Search for Maine, your County, and community (or select the County name-county wide option under the community search pulldown menu – for example: “Waldo – County Wide”)
Map Service Center - Pending Maps (pt 2)
Address Search for Pending Flood Zones on Maine Flood Hazard Map

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Address Search for Pending Flood Zones on Maine Flood Hazard Map (pt 2)

In the “Layer List”
Uncheck the box to the left of “Maine Flood Zones Q3” and “Maine Flood Zones Preliminary”
Check the box to the left of “Maine Flood Zones Pending”

Notes:
NFHL data will show the location of existing Letters of Map Change.
National Flood Hazard Layer

Once the new digital maps become effective, they will become part of the National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL), which is served up by FEMA’s Map Service Center at
https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/wps/portal/NFHLWMS

And the Maine Flood Hazard Map at
The NFHL Special Flood Hazard Area data is intensely helpful in planning and estimating, but does not by itself represent a regulatory product as the effective printed maps do. For that reason, if you are making a regulatory decision, please use FEMA’s Map Service Center to create a FIRMette to use as your reference of the effective map.