

PRESS RELEASE

New Flood Maps for Buchanan County

On February 5th the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will host an Open House to present preliminary floodplain maps to Buchanan County citizens. The meeting will be held at the Buchanan County Public Health Department Meeting Room, 1413 1st Street West, Independence on Tuesday, February 5th, from 5:00pm – 7:00pm. This meeting is open to the public.

The open house will provide property owners an opportunity to view the preliminary maps and learn how their flood risk may have changed. Representatives from FEMA and the Iowa DNR will be on hand to answer questions and address residents' concerns about the preliminary flood maps.

Flooding is the number one natural disaster in the United States. It is vital that property owners understand their risk and take advantage of tools or programs available to them, including flood insurance. These preliminary maps provide a tool for communicating flood risk to property owners. The maps will eventually become the basis for local communities' floodplain management measures. Insurance companies will use the maps to determine flood insurance rates for buildings and contents.

As a result of these map changes, some buildings throughout Buchanan County may, for the first time, may be included in a high-risk flood zone, known as the Special Flood Hazard Area. This may result in those affected homeowners being required to purchase flood insurance.

Residents with questions can contact the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources at 515-725-8352 or Ken.Bouma@dnr.iowa.gov.