

**Allowable Rise** - The Allowable Rise in a floodplain is simply the amount of rise in floodwater that FEMA or a local municipality will allow as caused by man-made structures, placement of fill material, etc. The allowable rise is used as the basis for delimiting a floodway.

**Conveyance** - Conveyance is a term commonly referring to the amount of area water needs to maintain its flow. Specific to floodplains, conveyance is the area that flood flows require to pass the peak flood flow rate. If, say, conveyance is increased by digging a larger channel for flood flows to pass through, it would likely result in lowered flood elevations and/or lowered water velocities.

**FEMA** - Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA manages the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). In 2003 FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

**FIRM** - Flood Insurance Rate Map. The FIRM is where to look for flood information on a property or region. The FIRM is a map provided by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) showing floodplain boundaries and sometimes floodway boundaries, depending on the level of study that an area has received. Some of the older FIRM's do not have floodway mapping, and separate Floodway maps provided by the NFIP must be obtained.

**Floodplain** - The floodplain line represents the extents to which flood waters would encroach in a specified flood event. Most commonly, the 100-year flood event is shown on flood mapping done by FEMA and local municipalities. Also, the 500-year flood event is typically shown on flood mapping done in more populated areas.

**Floodway** - The floodway is a theoretical line which represents the limits to which the floodplain could be constrained (filled in, blocked, etc.) before a specified allowable rise in flood elevation occurs. Commonly, the allowable rise ranges from 6- to 12- inches.

**Flood Fringe** - The flood fringe is the area between the floodplain line and the floodway line. As discussed above, the floodway represents the limits to which the floodplain could be filled in. Accordingly, the flood fringe is the area of the floodplain that can be filled with the assurance that the allowable rise in flood elevation will not be exceeded.

**LOMA** - Letter of Map Amendment. The LOMA process is administered by FEMA and can be utilized to amend/revise a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The LOMA is very similar to a LOMR-F, and is used to show that due to the existence of high ground or fill material, an area or structure should be removed from the floodplain. The LOMA has certain restrictions applied to the timing of placement of fill. In short, a LOMA can only be used if fill was placed prior to the date of the first FIRM identifying the floodplain to be amended.

**LOMR** - Letter of Map Revision. The LOMR process is administered by FEMA and can be utilized to revise a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The LOMR is typically used to show more complex changes to the floodplain than simply the placement of fill, as with the LOMR-F. The LOMR can be used to show corrections to floodplain and floodway mapping, changes in regional hydrology (determination of flood flows), addition of bridges or structures within a waterway, etc.

**LOMR-F** - Letter of Map Revision based on Fill. The LOMR-F process is administered by FEMA and can be utilized to revise a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The LOMR-F is used to show that due to the placement of fill, an area or structure has been raised out of the floodplain.

**NFIP** - National Flood Insurance Program. The NFIP is the federal agency which oversees the nation's database of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), in addition to serving many other flood related functions.