

Home buyer's project #4—Flooding

Purpose

This project will acquaint you with the most common type of natural disaster world wide.

Assignment

Like all of the home buyer's projects, this one should be completed in two steps. First, you need to answer the following questions so that you can assess the potential hazard.

- What are 100-year and 500-year floods, and how likely are they to occur in any given year?
- What are the warning signs that an area may be susceptible to flooding and how can you recognize these on a topographic map?

Second, you need to determine if homes at the four addresses listed below are potentially at risk from flooding using online flood insurance maps and what you have learned about topography and flooding. Flood insurance maps show the areas that may be inundated by 100- and 500-year floods. They can be found at:

<http://msc.fema.gov/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/FemaWelcomeView?storeId=10001&catalogId=10001&langId=-1>. These maps are not user friendly, but an online tutorial that describes how to use them can be found at: http://www.fema.gov/media/fhm/firm/ot_firm.htm. If you need help, come see me. You can also use Google Maps to view aerial photos and topographic maps of each home.

- A. 1000 Riverside Court, Steamboat Springs, Colorado
- B. 1000 2nd Avenue, Marlinton, West Virginia
- C. 82 White Birch Lane, Gorham, New Hampshire
- D. 167 Lighthouse Road, Ocracoke, North Carolina

What to turn in

750–800-word paper that integrates your results. See "Notes on what I expect for the home buyer's projects" for detailed instructions.