

# THE VOICE

FEMA REGION 6 MITIGATION NEWS & INFORMATION

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## CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE:

- [LOMA 101: What You Need to Know!](#)
- [Increase Your Risk Communications through Widgets](#)
- [New Preparedness Feature on Smartphone App!](#)
- [Preparing Your Business for Winter](#)
- [Winter Weather—Know the Terms](#)

## Increase Your Risk

### Communications through Widgets

Have you considered adding features to your website for your visitors to understand more about risks they may face? A widget allows you to add a small web page with text and links to your existing site.

The benefit is you provide your users direct access to FEMA links when they visit your site.

Widgets are available on a variety of topics, such as Storm Preparedness, downloading the FEMA Application, Weather Forecast, Registering for Disaster Assistance, Kids Fire Safety, and more.

To add our widget to your site, copy and past the small snippet of code into your web site, or share this link with your web manager or website programmer:

<https://www.fema.gov/widgets>

## LOMA 101: What You Need to Know!

A Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) is an official amendment, by letter, to an effective National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) map. A LOMA establishes a property's location in relation to the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Scale limitations can impact the accuracy of the NFIP maps. The LOMA process offers homeowners who believe their property has been inadvertently included in the SFHA an administrative procedure for map correction if they can demonstrate their property is actually on natural high ground above the base flood elevation. Because a successful LOMA officially amends the effective NFIP map, it is a public record that the community must maintain. Any LOMA should be noted on the community's master flood map and filed by panel number in an accessible location.

## How do you apply for a LOMA?

Any individual who owns, rents or leases property may submit certain mapping and survey information to FEMA and request that FEMA issue a document that officially removes a property and/or structure from the SFHA. In most cases, the applicant will need to hire a Licensed Land Surveyor or Registered Professional Engineer to prepare an Elevation Form (MT-1 Form 2) for the property. For structure requests, if an elevation certificate has already been completed it can be submitted in lieu of the elevation [form](#).

It is simple to apply online using the FEMA [Online Letter of Map Change \(LOMC\) tool](#). Paper applications are available for download on FEMA's [website](#). Licensed land surveyors and professional engineers interested in applying on behalf of a client can use FEMA's eLOMA tool. More information for professionals about the eLOMA process is available on FEMA's [Mapping Information Platform](#).

There is no fee for FEMA's review of a LOMA request. Applications submitted based on changes since an area was studied require a processing fee at the time of submission.

FEMA offers free monthly web-training through their Virtual Brown Bag on topics related to identifying and communicating risk. Sign up at:  
<https://r6virtualbrownbag.eventbrite.com>

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### What do I need to apply for a LOMA?

- Locally recorded deed and tax map *OR* recorded plat map
- Community Acknowledgement Form (included in application) signed by a local official ([if request is in floodway or involves the placement of fill](#))
- Elevation information prepared by a licensed land surveyor or professional engineer.

### Where can I find more resources?

For help with questions on the LOMA process or about applying, connect with a Map Specialist from the FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) by calling the toll-free hotline at 1-877-336-2627 (1-877-FEMA-MAP), or by email [FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com](mailto:FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com).

### New Preparedness Feature on Smartphone App!



FEMA launched a new feature to its free smartphone app that will enable users to receive push notifications to their devices to remind them to take important steps to prepare their homes and families for disasters. The reminder feature allows users to receive pre-scheduled safety and preparedness

tips, including testing smoking alarms, practicing a fire escape plan, updating emergency kits and replacing smoke alarm batteries.

The new reminder feature builds upon several innovative tools already built into the app. In addition to push notifications, the app also provides a customizable checklist of emergency supplies, maps of open shelters and recovery centers, and tips on how to survive natural and manmade disasters. The FEMA app also offers a feature that enables users to receive push notifications of weather alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five locations across the nation.

The latest version of the FEMA app is available for free in the [App Store](#) for Apple devices and [Google Play](#) for Android devices. Users who already have the app downloaded on their device should download the latest update for the reminder alerts feature to take effect. The reminders are available in English and Spanish and are located in the “Prepare” section of the FEMA App.

### Preparing Your Business for Winter

Winter weather brings concerns about heat and maximizing its retention, frozen pipes, and access to your place of business. The following link is to a checklist from the Small Business Administration to help you identify the areas of your business that are most susceptible to winter hazards and to suggest ways to minimize damage. <http://www2.agilityrecovery.com/assets/SBA/wntreathersba.pdf>

### Winter Weather: Know the Terms

- **Winter storm watch** --- be alert, a storm is likely
- **Winter storm warning** --- take action, the storm is in or entering the area
- **Blizzard warning** --- snow and strong winds combined will produce blinding snow, near zero visibility, deep drifts, and life-threatening wind chill--seek refuge immediately!
- **Winter weather advisory** --- winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous, especially to motorists
- **Frost/freeze warning** --- below freezing temperatures are expected and may cause damage to plants, crops, or fruit trees

