

THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. A significant portion of Alamogordo (~50%) is located within the SFHA.
2. All new construction projects in Alamogordo require a Flood Map Information Request Form.
3. All new construction must be built at or above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) noted on the Flood Map Information Request Form.
4. Upon completion of construction, the contractor must hire a licensed surveyor to complete an Elevation Certificate, showing a building has been built at or above the BFE noted on the Flood Map Information Request Form.
5. Building at or above the BFE ensures that properties meet FEMA's NFIP flood regulations while also helping to reduce flood risk.

ALAMOGORDO PLANNING & ZONING ADDRESS

1376 E 9th St, Alamogordo, NM 88310

CONTACT US

Sean McGranaghan, Assistant City Planner
| (575) 439-4220 x3 |
smcgranaghan@ci.alamogordo.nm.us
[Flood Information | Alamogordo, NM](#)

UNDERSTANDING THE SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA

City of Alamogordo, New
Mexico

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA (SFHA)



SFHA DEFINITION

An area having special flood, mudflow or flood-related erosion hazards and shown on a Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM)

or a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Zone A, AO, A1-A30, AE, A99, AH, AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/AH, AR/AO, AR/A1-A30, V1-V30, VE or V. The SFHA is the area where the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP's) floodplain management regulations must be enforced and the area where the mandatory purchase of flood insurance applies.



SFHA IN ALAMOGORDO

Although Alamogordo is in the desert, a significant portion (~50%) of the city is located within the SFHA. The city

contains AH, AE, A, AO, and X flood zones.



HOW CAN I KNOW IF A PROPERTY IS IN THE SFHA?

If you have questions about whether a property is located within the Special Flood Hazard Area, contact Assistant City Planner, Sean McGranaghan (contact information can be found on back of pamphlet).

BUILDING IN THE SFHA

NEW CONSTRUCTION IN ALAMOGORDO

While all construction permits in Alamogordo are issued through Construction Industries Division at the state level, builders must first obtain sign off from the Planning & Zoning Department. When filing out a construction permit application, builders will be charged for a Flood Map Information Request. The city will provide the beginnings of an elevation certificate. The Elevation Certificate will need to be completed by a licensed surveyor after construction is completed.

WHAT IS AN ELEVATION CERTIFICATE?

An Elevation Certificate (EC) is an administrative tool used by the NFIP to provide elevation information necessary to ensure compliance with community floodplain management ordinances. An elevation certificate will provide the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) for a property.

WHAT IS THE BASE FLOOD ELEVATION?

The BFE is the elevation of surface water resulting from a flood that has a 1% chance of equaling or exceeding that level in any given year. All new construction in the SFHA must be built at or above the BFE. Building at or above the BFE ensures that properties meet FEMA's NFIP flood management regulations, while also helping to reduce flood risk.

PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR PROPERTY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

PROTECTING YOURSELF

If you find yourself in a situation where a road appears flooded, make sure to turn around. It is difficult to know the depth of the water, leading to the possibility of drowning.

PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY

Living in a SFHA it is important to take precautions to protect your property from flooding. This can include things like making sure mechanical equipment in the home is elevated above the BFE, as well as keeping important documents in an elevated location to decrease the risk of damage in case of a flood event.

In addition to taking physical precautions, homeowners as well as renters in the SFHA should purchase flood insurance to help protect their assets in the case of a flood.

PROTECTING THE FLOODPLAIN

In addition to protecting yourself and your property, it is important to protect the floodplain. The City of Alamogordo has manmade flood channels as well as natural arroyos that carry rainwater from the mountains through our community. It is imperative to keep these flood channels clear to not disrupt the flow of water. This means no dumping waste in our flood channels and arroyos.