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TOWN MEDIA RELEASE



NEW FEMA FLOOD ZONES WILL IMPACT MORE THAN 300 LBTS PROPERTY OWNERS



More than 300 **Lauderdale-By-The-Sea** property owners would be required to obtain flood insurance under newly-proposed federal flood zone maps.

The flood zone maps, which show the extent neighborhoods are at risk for flooding, are used to help determine federal flood insurance requirements.

Under the proposed new flood maps, **343 property owners** in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea would need to buy flood insurance for the first time. **Thirty-seven** property owners would also see their federal flood insurance requirement dropped, although it may still be prudent for them to keep their policies intact.

The new maps were produced by the **Federal Emergency Management Agency** and **Broward County**. They are much more precise than older maps.

You can see the preliminary maps online at:

<http://www.broward.org/Regulation/Engineering/FloodZoneMaps/Pages/ProposedNewFloodMaps.aspx>

FEMA's maps for Broward County have not yet been officially adopted and will only become effective after a public comment period, when property owners can submit appeals and protests if they can show the maps are in error.

The comment period ends in February.

Flooding is the most common and most expensive type of natural disaster in the U.S. Most homeowner policies do not cover flooding, but you can purchase flood insurance to protect against the financial devastation flooding can cause.

Congress mandates that federally regulated or insured mortgage lenders require flood insurance on properties in high-risk flood zones. Some lenders also require flood insurance for properties located outside of high-risk flood areas.

Even if property flood insurance is not required, it is still an important consideration, because anyone can be financially vulnerable to floods. If the preliminary maps show you moved from a high to a low-risk flood zone, you should talk with an insurance agent about keeping your flood policy intact.

For more info, call Public Information Officer Steve d'Oliveira at **954-640-4209**.