

How to download NFHL GIS data from the FEMA Map Service Center

January 29, 2025

The FEMA Map Service Center provides:

- Flood Insurance Rate Maps – FIRM
- Flood Insurance Studies – FIS
- **National Flood Hazard Layer – NFHL GIS database**
- Preliminary Products
- Historic Products
- Letters of Map Change – LOMC, LOMA, LOMR

1. Go to the FEMA Map Service Center web site: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>.
2. Enter an address and click on the search button. The page will open a map.
3. Click on Show All Products.

Enter an address, place, or coordinates: [?](#)

17 Elkins Ln, Augusta, ME

Search Results—Products for **AUGUSTA, CITY OF**

The flood map for the selected area is number **23011C0517D**, effective on **06/16/2011** [?](#)

DYNAMIC MAP **MAP IMAGE** **Changes to this FIRM** [?](#)

- Revisions (0)
- Amendments (2)
- Revalidations (0)

You can choose a new flood map or move the location pin by selecting a different location on the locator map below or by entering a new location in the search field above. NOTE: Please be sure to enable popups for this site.

MAP PANELS

- Digital Data Available
- No Digital Data Available
- Unmapped

OTHER AREAS

- Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone 2
- SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS
- Regulatory Floodway Zone NC, AD, AE, VE, AH
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 2% Annual Chance Flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than 100 square feet Zone X
- Future Conditions 2% Annual

OTHER FEATURES

- Cross Sections with 2% Annual Chance
- Water Surface Elevation
- Coastal Transport
- DAM FLOOD ELEVATION LINE (DFEL)
- Limit of Study
- Jurisdiction Boundary
- Coastal Transport Baseline
- Profile Baseline
- Hydrographic Feature

Sue Baker, State Coordinator
National Flood Insurance Program
Sue.Baker@maine.gov
207-287-2801

Janet Parker, Planner II
Maine Floodplain Management Program
Janet.Parker@maine.gov

1/29/2025

4. Open Effective Products, then NFHL Data.
 - Open NFHL Data-State for the updated dataset.
 - Note the Study Effective Date and the LOMR Effective Date. The data is updated occasionally and you may need to download an updated copy as needed.

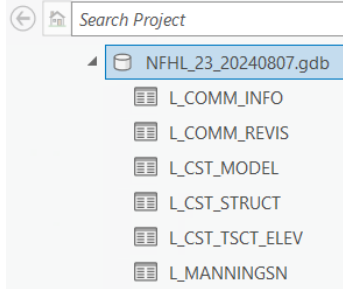
Product ID	Latest Study Effective Date	Latest LOMR Effective Date	Size	Download
NFHL_23_20240807	07/17/2024	08/07/2024	363MB	

5. Click the DL button under Download.
 - The web browser will download the data.

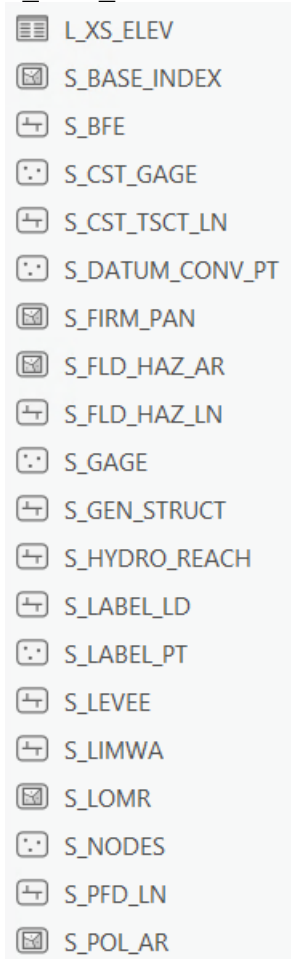
6. Open the downloaded file and save in your own network location.
 - The file is large and may take some time to move.
7. Open a GIS session and open the geodatabase.
 - There are many shapefiles, some may be useful, many may not be needed.

Catalog

Project Portal Favorites



- S_BFE = Base Flood Elevation
- S_FIRM_PAN = Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel
- S_FLD_HAZ_AR = Flood Hazard Area
- S_FLD_LN = Flood Line



- FEMA has several Technical References for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping which explain the layers and how to use them, as well as how the FIRM is produced.

Sue Baker, State Coordinator
 National Flood Insurance Program
Sue.Baker@maine.gov
 207-287-2801

Janet Parker, Planner II
 Maine Floodplain Management Program
Janet.Parker@maine.gov

1/29/2025

- [Technical References for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping | FEMA.gov](#)

To add a direct link to the FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer

These links will bring in the most updated information directly from FEMA automatically when they are added to ArcGIS Pro or a web map.

- Effective:
https://hazards.fema.gov/arcgis/rest/services/FIRMette/NFHLREST_FIRMette/MapServer
- Pending:
https://hazards.fema.gov/arcgis/rest/services/PrelimPending/Pending_NFHL/MapServer
- Preliminary:
https://hazards.fema.gov/arcgis/rest/services/PrelimPending/Prelim_NFHL/MapServer

For additional background information about Flood Data Viewers and Geospatial Data see:

<https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/national-flood-hazard-layer>

To verify the service listings see: <https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/wps/portal/NFHLWMS>.