



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
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MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
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Release Date: 07/11/2016

Title: Flood Risk Open House for City of Columbia and Unincorporated Areas of Lamar, Marion,  
and Walthall Counties

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Publish:  Yes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 11, 2016

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## **Flood Risk Open House for City of Columbia and Unincorporated Areas of Lamar, Marion, and Walthall Counties**

(Jackson, Miss.) -- The Mississippi/FEMA Risk MAP Team will host a Flood Risk open house from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 20, at the Old Training Center Banquet Hall located at 1730 Highway 44 in Columbia.

The open house will provide the public with an opportunity to review the recently completed preliminary Flood Insurance Study and its accompanying preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that include base flood information and identification of areas subject to flood hazards. The new preliminary maps covering the City of Columbia and portions of the unincorporated areas of Lamar, Marion, and Walthall Counties will also be available for viewing on the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality web site at:

Lamar County: <http://geology.deq.ms.gov/floodmaps/Projects/RiskMAP/?county=Lamar>

Marion County: <http://geology.deq.ms.gov/floodmaps/Projects/RiskMAP/?county=Marion>

Walthall County: <http://geology.deq.ms.gov/floodmaps/Projects/RiskMAP/?county=Walthall>

The team, which includes representatives from the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Mississippi Geographic Information LLC, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), will be available to address questions from the public. Local and state officials will also be present to provide information about flood risk, flood insurance, floodplain development requirements, and the process used for floodplain mapping.

Once the preliminary FIRMs become effective, these maps will be used by floodplain permit officials, builders and developers, lenders, realtors, insurance agents, and the general public to determine flood risk.

Property owners, realtors, lenders, and insurance agents are encouraged to attend and take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about flood risk and hazard mitigation. Contact a community Floodplain Administrator to learn if a home or business is located within a special flood hazard area which will require flood insurance if there is a federally-backed loan.

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