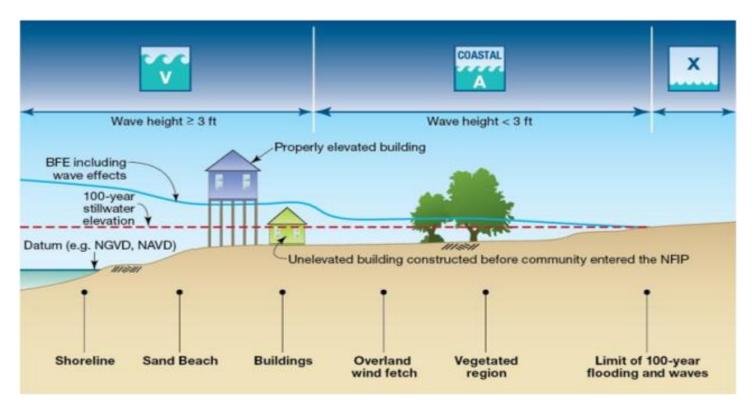# Coastal Flood Hazard Mapping

Coastal flood hazard mapping is the process where the overland wave modeling results are assimilated with the topography data to delineate the boundary of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) for the 1% annual chance stillwater elevation (100-year conditions), along with mapping the location and extent of Zones VE, AE, and X. As part of this process, additional mapping transects which provide a higher degree of spatial resolution than those published in the Region III Flood Insurance Study (FIS), will be utilized. These mapping transects along with the published transects will be incorporated into GIS to conduct the flood zone delineation. The Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) and flood hazard zone breaks (gutters) obtained from the overland wave modeling will then be interpolated between the transects and engineering judgment will be applied, where appropriate, in order to avoid mapping results which are not representative of real pathways for flooding.

The Coastal Hazards Flood Zones Overview provides more information on the different components of the coastal flood elevations and how coastal SFHAs and flood zones are mapped.

For each Region III county, work maps will be generated presenting the preliminary flood zone delineations against the aerial and topographic base map. These preliminary mapping results will then be subject to review and comments. Any potential issues with the mapping will be addressed prior to proceeding to DFIRM production.

Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA)

In accordance with FEMA's Procedure Memorandum 50 (2008), the mapping process will also include defining the Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA). The LiMWA is a boundary that identifies the location of the 1.5 ft wave height generating a zone also called "Coastal A Zone" where the wave damage is substantial and communities should consider requiring VE Zone building criteria. The location of the 1.5 ft wave height determined during the WHAFIS modeling of the 1% annual chance condition will be extracted and the LiMWA will be mapped accordingly.

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