



COUNTY OF AMHERST

Public Information Officer

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FEMA Field Study May Enter Private Property

In December of 2018, Amherst County received a letter from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), regarding their plans to update the area's Flood Insurance Rate Map and Flood Insurance Study report. This notification comes several months after FEMA conducted a Discovery meeting with the region, in regards to the flood hazard risk in our community. Kathryn Lipiecki, chief of FEMA's Risk Analysis branch, stated the survey work will begin in mid-late January and continue for approximately four months, depending on weather. The official statement sent to the County of Amherst is as followed:

"In support of the analysis, Continental Mapping, part of the STARR II team, will be performing field survey in and along the James River for this new study. While measuring, surveyors from the above firm will make every effort to stay on public land and rights-of-way; however, it may be necessary for them to enter upon privately owned property for short periods of time to gather survey information. Should this occur in your area, an employee on the project will make every attempt possible to contact the property owners and seek permission.

The survey work will commence around the area starting in mid to late January and continue for approximately four months, depending on weather and may be performed Monday through Sunday during daylight hours. The surveyors will respect the homeowner's property and will not interfere with their use of it. Upon request, the surveyors will identify themselves by driver's license and a letter of introduction."

FEMA wants to ensure that our community has the most up-to-date and technical data to develop the flood risk products. Therefore, the partnership between Amherst County, our residents and FEMA is necessary to increase flood risk awareness and reduce the risk to life and property from flooding. We thank you for working with us and FEMA to ensure an efficient and effective field study.

Additional information may be obtained from Tyler Creasy at stcreasy@countyofamherst.com or (434) 946-9400.