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J L A E X P L A I N E R D O C U M E N T  
B A C K G R O U N D R E S E A R C H  
F E M A F L O O D M A P S

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Flood maps show the areas that are at greatest risk during floods of varying magnitudes. A flood map is essential for assessing risk of flood damage at a building site. Flood maps for locations within the United States may be obtained from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Map Service Center. FEMA's website maintains the latest official regulatory floodplain maps for the United States. These maps are also used by insurance companies when they assess the flooding risk at a site. It is not uncommon in Colorado for a portion of a site to be within a regulatory floodplain, with a portion outside of the floodplain. Here's a step-by-step guide in obtaining a flood map:

Open the FEMA Flood Map Service Center (<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>)

Enter the site address in the search field (see image below)

The screenshot shows the FEMA Flood Map Service Center homepage. On the left is a navigation menu with options like 'Navigation', 'Search', 'MSC Home', 'MSC Search by Address', 'MSC Search All Products', 'MSC Products and Tools', 'Hazus', 'LOMC Batch Files', 'Product Availability', 'MSC Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)', 'MSC Email Subscriptions', and 'Contact MSC Help'. The main content area has a heading 'FEMA Flood Map Service Center: Welcome!' and a sub-heading 'Looking for a Flood Map?'. Below this is a search box with the placeholder text 'Enter an address, a place, or longitude/latitude coordinates:' and a 'Search' button. To the right of the search box is a small map thumbnail. Further down, there is a section 'Looking for more than just a current flood map?' with a link to 'Search All Products'. Below that is an 'About Flood Map Service Center' section with a paragraph of text and a link to 'FEMA Hazard Mapping Updates Overview Fact Sheet'.

Click on the “MAP IMAGE” to download file

The screenshot shows the search results page for 'DENVER, CITY AND COUNTY OF'. The search results indicate the flood map number is '0800460182J' and is effective on '09/04/2020'. There are three main options: 'DYNAMIC MAP' with a 'PRINT MAP/FIRMette' icon, 'MAP IMAGE' with a 'DOWNLOAD FIRM PANEL' icon (highlighted with a red box), and 'Changes to this FIRM' with a list of 'Revisions (0)', 'Amendments (2)', and 'Revalidations (1)'. Below these options is a locator map showing the search area with a red pin. The locator map is divided into several FIRM panels, each with a unique ID and effective date. A 'Go To NFHL Viewer' button is located at the bottom right of the locator map.

A zipped folder will be downloaded, extract the folder and open the .png file. It will show the flood insurance rate map of the site address. Sample flood map is shown below

