



Town of *Kiawah Island*

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New Flood Insurance Rate Maps Memorandum

January 29, 2021

To: All Kiawah Island Residents
From: Bruce D. Spicher/Floodplain Manager

As most of you know, the Town has adopted a new Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The map becomes effective today. The overall map shows base flood elevations reduced across the entire island. Some of these reductions are minor, while others are quite extensive. The results are derived from two factors: 1. Improved LIDAR technology, and 2. Natural topography of the island.

Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) is pulsed laser measuring. This remote sensing defines exact distances of an object on the earth's surface. The imagery received provides a true method of identifying topography features for a given location. This process is the basis for analyzing the flood risk vulnerabilities for Kiawah Island. The island's natural topography is as one would expect, higher in some areas of the island than others.

Since there are numerous variations to our natural topography across the island, I would encourage all of you to view the video tutorial on the Town's website if you haven't already done so. It will walk you through step-by-step on how the new maps will affect your given property.

The link provided will take you directly to the video:

<https://www.kiawahisland.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/determining-base-flood-elevations.mp4>

This link is for our digital flood maps that are posted on our website:

<https://chascogis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7c10eb6de226444e9a914b9c679e2591>

The reductions in base flood elevation could be beneficial when it comes to renewing your flood insurance policy. However, only your insurance provider can make that determination. I would suggest that upon receipt of this memorandum, that you contact your agent.

If you have any additional questions, you may contact me at 843-768-5107.