

- (4) To minimize prolonged business interruptions;
- (5) To minimize damage to public facilities and utilities such as water and gas mains, electric, telephone and sewer lines, streets and bridges located in floodplains;
- (6) To help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the sound use and development of flood prone areas in such a manner as to minimize flood blight areas, and;
- (7) To ensure that potential homebuyers are notified that property is in a floodprone area.

**SECTION E. METHODS OF REDUCING FLOOD LOSSES.**

In order to accomplish its purposes, this ordinance includes methods and provisions for:

- (1) Restricting or prohibiting uses which are dangerous to health, safety, and property due to water or erosion hazards, or which result in damaging increases in erosion or in flood heights or velocities;
- (2) Requiring that uses vulnerable to floods, including facilities which serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction;
- (3) Controlling the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers, which help accommodate or channel flood waters;
- (4) Controlling filling, grading, dredging, and other development which may increase flood damage, and;
- (5) Preventing or regulating the construction of flood barriers that will unnaturally divert floodwaters or may increase flood hazards in other areas.

**ARTICLE 2. DEFINITIONS.**

Unless specifically defined below, words or phrases used in this ordinance shall be interpreted so as to give them the meaning they have in common usage and to give this ordinance it's most reasonable application.

**A Zone** is the Area of Special Flood Hazard without base flood elevations determined.

**A1 – A30 and AE zone** is the Area of Special Flood Hazard with base flood elevations determined.

**Accessory structure** (Appurtenant structure) means a structure, which is located on the same parcel of property as the principal structure and the use of which is incidental to the use of the principal structure. Accessory structures should constitute a minimal initial investment, may not be used for human habitation, and be designed to have minimal flood damage potential. Examples of accessory structures are detached garages, carports, storage sheds, pole barns, and hay sheds.

**Addition** (to an existing building) means any walled and roofed expansion to the perimeter or height of a building. Any addition shall be considered new construction. If the addition is more than 50% of the market value of the structure, then the addition and the existing structure are now new construction.

**Appeal** means a request for a review of the Floodplain Administrator's interpretation of any provision of this ordinance or a request for a variance.

**AR/A1 – A30, AR/AE, AR/AH, AR/AO, and AR/A zones** are SFHAs that result from the decertification of a previously accredited flood protection system or levee that is in the process of being restored to provide a one percent chance or greater level of flood protection. After restoration is complete, these areas will still experience residual flooding from other flooding sources.

**A99 zone** is that part of the SFHA inundated by the one percent chance flood to be protected from the one percent chance flood by a Federal flood protection system or levee under construction, no base flood elevations are determined.

**Area of special flood hazard** is the land in the floodplain within a community subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. This area is also referred to as the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

**X zones (shaded)** are areas of 0.2 percent chance flood that are outside of the SFHA subject to the one percent chance flood with average depths of less than one foot, or with contributing drainage area less than one square mile, and areas protected by certified levees from the base flood.

**X zones (unshaded)** are areas determined to be outside the 0.2 percent chance floodplain.

**Base flood** means the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (also called the “one percent chance flood”).

**Base Flood Elevation (BFE)** is the elevation shown in the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Zones AE, AH, A1-30, AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1-A30, AR/AH, AR/AO, V1-V30, and VE that indicates the water surface elevation resulting from a flood that has a one percent or greater chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

**Basement** means any portion of a building having its floor sub-grade (below ground level) on all sides.

**Breakaway wall** means a wall that is not part of the structural support of the building and is intended through its design and construction to collapse under specific lateral loading forces without causing damage to the elevated portion of the building or the supporting foundation system. This is associated with V Zone construction.

**Building** see **Structure**.

**Community** is a political entity and/or its authorized agents or representatives that have the authority to adopt and enforce floodplain ordinances for the area under its jurisdiction.

**Community Floodplain Management Map** means any map produced by the community utilizing best available base flood elevation and floodway data that is from a federal, state, or other accepted technical source.

**Community Rating System (CRS)** is a program developed by the Federal Insurance Administration to provide incentives for those communities in the Regular Program that have gone beyond the minimum floodplain management requirements to develop extra measures to provide protection from flooding.

**Critical facility** (also called critical action) means facilities for which the effects of even a slight chance of flooding would be too great. The minimum floodplain of concern for critical facilities is the 0.2 percent chance flood level. Critical facilities include, but are not limited to facilities critical to the health and safety of the public such as: emergency operations centers, designated public shelters, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, police, fire and emergency response installations, vital data storage centers, power generation and water and other utilities (including related infrastructure such as principal points of utility systems) and installations which produce, use or store hazardous materials or hazardous waste (as defined under the Clean Water Act and other Federal statutes and regulations). Such facilities and access to such facilities will be constructed outside the one percent chance Special Flood Hazard Area or elevated/protected to or above the 0.2 percent chance flood level.

**Dam** is any artificial barrier, including appurtenant works, constructed to impound or divert water, waste water, liquid borne materials, or solids that may flow if saturated. All structures necessary to maintain the water level in an impoundment or to divert a stream from its course will be considered a dam.

**Development** means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including, but not limited to, buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavating, drilling operations, or storage of materials or equipment.

**Elevated building** means for insurance purposes, a non-basement building which has its lowest elevated floor raised above ground level by foundation walls, shear walls, posts, pilings, columns, or piers.

**Elevation Certificate** is a FEMA form used as a certified statement that verifies a building's elevation information.

**Emergency Program** means the first phase under which a community participates in the NFIP. It is intended to provide a first layer amount of insurance coverage for all insurable buildings in that community before the effective date of the initial FIRM.

**Enclosure below the Lowest Floor** see "Lowest Floor."

**Encroachment** means the advance or infringement of uses, plant growth, fill, excavation, buildings, structures or development into a floodplain, which may impede or alter the flow capacity of a floodplain.

**Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management)** this order requires that no federally assisted activities be conducted in or have the potential to affect identified Special Flood Hazard Areas, unless there is no practicable alternative.

**Existing Construction** means structures for which the "start of construction" commenced before the date of the FIRM or before January 1, 1975, for FIRMs effective before that date. Existing construction may also be referred to as existing structures.

**Existing manufactured home park or subdivision** means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including at a minimum the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed before the effective date of the floodplain management regulations adopted by a community.

**Expansion to an existing manufactured home park or subdivision** includes the preparation of additional sites by the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads).

**Fill** means a deposit of earthen materials placed by artificial means.

**Five-Hundred Year Flood** means the flood that has a 0.2 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any year. Areas subject to the 0.2 percent chance flood have a moderate risk of flooding.

**Flood or flooding** means a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from:

- a.) The overflow of inland or tidal waters.
- b.) The unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.
- c.) Mudslides which are proximately caused by flooding and are akin to a river of liquid and flowing mud on the surfaces of normally dry land areas, as when earth is carried by a current of water and deposited along the path of the current.
- d.) The collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or other body of water as a result of erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water exceeding anticipated cyclical levels or suddenly caused by an unusually high water level in a natural body of water, accompanied by a severe storm, or by an unanticipated force of nature, such as flash flood or an abnormal tidal surge, or by some similarly unusual and unforeseeable event which results in flooding.

**Flood** (insurance definition) means a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of two or more acres of normally dry land areas or of two or more properties (e.g. a building and a public street) from (1) overflow of inland or tidal waters (2) unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters (3) mudflows caused by flooding.

**Flood Boundary and Floodway Map (FBFM)** means the official map on which the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or Federal Insurance Administration (FIA) has delineated the areas of flood hazards and regulatory floodway.

**Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM)** means an official map of a community, issued by FEMA, where the boundaries of the areas of special flood hazard have been identified as Zone A.

**Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)** means an official map of a community, on which FEMA has delineated both the areas of special flood hazard and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

**Flood Insurance Study (FIS)** is the document which provides an examination, evaluation, and determination of flood hazards and, if appropriate, corresponding water surface elevations, or an examination, evaluation, and determination of mudslide and/or flood-related erosion hazards.

**Floodplain** means any land area susceptible to being inundated by flood waters from any source.

**Floodplain management** means the operation of an overall program of corrective and preventive measures for reducing flood damage and preserving and enhancing, where possible, natural resources in the floodplain, including but not limited to emergency preparedness plans, flood control works, floodplain management regulations, and open space plans.

**Floodplain Administrator** is the individual appointed to administer and enforce the floodplain management regulations.

**Floodplain management regulations** means this ordinance and other zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, building codes, health regulations, special purpose ordinances, and other applications of police power which control development in flood-prone areas. This term describes federal, state, or local regulations in any combination thereof, which provide standards for preventing and reducing flood loss and damage.

**Floodproofing** means any combination of structural and nonstructural additions, changes, or adjustments to structures, which reduce or eliminate flood damages to real estate or improved real estate property, water, and sanitary facilities, structures, and their contents. Only non-residential buildings in A Zones can be floodproofed. Structures shall be floodproofed with a minimum of two foot of freeboard in relation to the base flood elevation.

**Floodproofing Certificate** is an official FEMA form used to certify compliance for non-residential structures in A Zones as an alternative to elevating buildings to or above the base flood elevation.

**Floodway** *See Regulatory Floodway.*

**Floodway fringe** means that area of the special flood hazard area on either side of the regulatory floodway.

**Freeboard** means a factor of safety, usually expressed in feet above the BFE, which is applied for the purposes of floodplain management. It is used to compensate for the many unknown factors that could contribute to flood heights greater than the base flood.

**Functionally dependent use** means a use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. The term includes only docking facilities, port facilities that are necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or passengers, ship building and ship repair facilities and seafood offloading facilities. The term does not include long-term storage, manufacture, processing functions, sales, administrative functions, or service facilities.

**Hardship** (as related to variances of this ordinance) means the exceptional difficulty that would result from a failure to grant the requested variance. The *Lamar County Board of Supervisors* requires that the variance is exceptional, unusual, and peculiar to the property involved. Mere economic or financial hardship alone is NOT exceptional. Inconvenience, aesthetic considerations, physical handicaps, personal preferences, or the disapproval of one's neighbors likewise cannot, as a rule, qualify as an exceptional hardship. All of these problems can be resolved through other means without granting a variance, even if the alternative is more expensive, or requires the property owner to build elsewhere or put the parcel to a different use than originally intended.

**Hazard potential** means the possible adverse incremental consequences that result from the release of water or stored contents due to failure of a dam or mis-operation of a dam or appurtenances. The hazard potential classification of a dam does not reflect in any way on the current condition of a dam and its appurtenant structures (e.g. safety, structural integrity, and flood routing capacity).

**High hazard dam** means a class of dam in which failure may cause loss of life, serious damage to residential, industrial, or commercial buildings; or damage to, or disruption of, important public utilities or transportation facilities such as major highways or railroads. Dams which meet the statutory thresholds for regulation that are proposed for construction in established or proposed residential, commercial, or industrial areas will be assigned this classification, unless the applicant provides convincing evidence to the contrary. A development permit is required for a structure and any associated fill downstream from a dam at any location where flooding can be reasonably anticipated from principal or emergency spillway discharges, or from overtopping and failure of the dam.

**Highest adjacent grade** means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface, prior to construction, next to the proposed walls of a building.

**Historic Structure** means any structure that is:

- a.) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
- b.) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;
- c.) Individually listed on the State of Mississippi inventory of historic structures, or;
- d.) Individually listed on a local inventory historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified by an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior.

**Hydrologic and hydraulic engineering analyses** means the analyses performed by a professional engineer, registered in the state of Mississippi, in accordance with standard engineering practices as accepted by FEMA, used to determine flood elevations and /or floodway boundaries.

**Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC)** coverage means under the standard flood insurance policy the cost to repair a substantially flood damaged building that exceeds the minimal repair cost and that is required to bring a substantially damaged building into compliance with the local flood damage prevention ordinance. Acceptable mitigation measures are floodproofing (nonresidential), relocation, elevation, demolition, or any combination thereof. All renewal and new policies with effective dates on or after June 1, 1997, include ICC coverage.

**Letter of Map Change (LOMC)** is an official FEMA determination, by letter, to amend or revise effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps, Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps, and Flood Insurance Studies. LOMC's are broken down into the following categories:

Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA)

An amendment based on technical data showing that a property was incorrectly included in a designated SFHA, was not elevated by fill (only by a natural grade elevation), and will not be inundated by the one percent chance flood. A LOMA amends the current effective FIRM and establishes that a specific property is not located in a SFHA.

Letter of Map Revision (LOMR)

A revision based on technical data that, usually due to manmade changes, shows changes to flood zones, flood elevations, floodplain and floodway delineations, and planimetric features. One common type of LOMR, a LOMR-F, is a determination concerning whether a structure or parcel has been elevated by fill above the BFE and is, therefore, excluded from the SFHA.

Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR)

A formal review and comment by FEMA as to whether a proposed project complies with the minimum NFIP floodplain management criteria. A CLOMR does not revise effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps, Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps, or Flood Insurance Studies.

**Levee** means a man-made structure; usually an earthen embankment designed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices to contain, control, or divert the flow of water so as to provide protection from temporary flooding.

**Levee system** means a flood protection system which consists of a levee, or levees, and associated structures, such as closure and drainage devices, which are constructed and operated in accordance with sound engineering practices. For a levee system to be recognized, the following criteria must be met. All closure devices or mechanical systems for internal drainage, whether manual or automatic, must be operated in accordance with an officially adopted operation manual (a copy of which must be provided to FEMA by the operator when levee or drainage system recognition is being sought or revised). All operations must be under the jurisdiction of a Federal or State agency, an agency created by Federal or State law, or an agency of a community participating in the NFIP.

**Low hazard dam** means a class of dam in which failure would at the most result in damage to agricultural land, farm buildings (excluding residences), or minor roads.

**Lowest adjacent grade** means the elevation of the sidewalk, patio, deck support, or basement entryway immediately next to the structure and after the completion of construction. It does not include earth that is placed for aesthetic or landscape reasons around a foundation wall. It does include natural ground or properly compacted fill that comprises a component of a building's foundation system.

**Lowest floor** means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement). An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, used solely for parking of vehicles, building access, or storage, in an area other than a basement, is not considered a building's lowest floor, *provided* that such enclosure is not built so as to render the structure in violation of the non-elevation provisions of this code.

**Manufactured home** means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used with or without a permanent foundation when attached to the required utilities. The term manufactured home does not include a "recreational vehicle."

**Manufactured home park or subdivision** means a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.

**Map Amendment** means a change to an effective NFIP map that results in the exclusion from the SFHA or an individual structure or a legally described parcel of land that has been inadvertently included in the SFHA (i.e., no alterations of topography have occurred since the date of the first NFIP map that showed the structure or parcel to be within the SFHA).

**Map Panel Number** means the four-digit number followed by a letter suffix assigned by FEMA on a FHBM, FBFM, or FIRM. The first four digits represent the map panel, and the letter suffix represents the number of times the map panel has been revised.

**Market value** means the property value (as agreed between a willing buyer and seller), excluding the value of land as established by what the local real estate market will bear. Market value can be established by independent certified appraisal; replacement cost depreciated by age of building (Actual Cash Value); or adjusted assessed values.

**Mean Sea Level** means, for the purposes of the National Flood Insurance Program, the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929, North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) of 1988, or other datum, to which base flood elevations shown on a community's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) are referenced.

**Mitigation** means sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects. The purpose of mitigation is twofold: to protect people and structures, and to minimize the costs of disaster response and recovery.

**National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)** is the federal program that makes flood insurance available to owners of property in participating communities nationwide through the cooperative efforts of the Federal Government and the private insurance industry.

**National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD)** means a vertical control, corrected in 1929, used as a reference for establishing varying elevations within the floodplain.

**New Construction** means a structure or an addition to an existing structure for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective date of a floodplain management regulation adopted by a community and any subsequent improvements to such structure or the addition.

**New manufactured home park or subdivision** means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed on or after the effective date of floodplain regulations adopted by a community.

**Non-Residential** means, but is not limited to; small business concerns, churches, schools, farm buildings (including grain bins and silos), poolhouses, clubhouses, recreational buildings, mercantile structures, agricultural and industrial structures, warehouses, and hotels and motels with normal room rentals for less than 6 months duration.

**North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) of 1988** means a vertical control, corrected in 1988, used as a reference for establishing varying elevations within the floodplain.

**Obstruction** means, but is not limited to, any dam, wall, wharf, embankment, levee, dike, pile, abutment, protection, excavation, channel construction, bridge, culvert, building, wire, fence, rock, gravel, refuse, fill, structure, vegetation or other material in, along, across or projecting into any watercourse which may alter, impede, retard or change the direction and/or velocity of the flow of water, or due to its location, its propensity to snare or collect debris carried by the flow of water, or its likelihood of being carried downstream.

**One Percent Flood** (aka 100-Year Flood) is the flood that has a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Any flood zone that begins with the letter A or V is subject to inundation by the one percent chance flood. Over the life of a 30-year loan, there is a 26-percent chance of experiencing such a flood within the SFHA.

**Participating Community** is any community that voluntarily elects to participate in the NFIP by adopting and enforcing floodplain management regulations that are consistent with the standards of the NFIP.

**Post-FIRM Construction** means new construction and substantial improvements for which start of construction occurred after December 31, 1974, or on or after the effective date of the initial FIRM of the community, whichever is later.

**Pre-FIRM Construction** means new construction and substantial improvements for which start of construction occurred on or before December 31, 1974, or before the effective date of the initial FIRM of the community, whichever is later.

**Probation** is a means of FEMA formally notifying participating communities of the first of the two NFIP sanctions due to their failure to correct violations and deficiencies in the administration and enforcement of the local floodplain management regulations.

**Public safety and nuisance** means anything which is injurious to the safety or health of an entire community or neighborhood, or any considerable number of persons, or unlawfully obstructs the free passage or use, in the customary manner, of any navigable lake, or river, bay, stream, canal, or basin.

**Recreational vehicle** means a vehicle that is:

- a.) Built on a single chassis;
- b.) 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection;
- c.) Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck, and;
- d.) Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

**Regular Program** means the second phase of the community's participation in the NFIP in which second layer coverage is available based upon risk premium rates only after FEMA has completed a risk study for the community.

**Regulatory floodway** means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot.

**Repair** means the reconstruction or renewal of any part of an existing building for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective date of a floodplain management regulation adopted by a community and all such regulations effective at the time of permitting must be met.

**Repetitive Loss** means flood-related damages sustained by a structure on two separate occasions during a 10-year period for which the cost of repairs at the time of each such flood event, on the average, equals or exceeds 25 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

**Repetitive Loss Property** is any insurable building for which two or more claims of more than \$1,000 were paid by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) within any rolling 10-year period, since 1978. At least two of the claims must be more than ten days apart but, within ten years of each other. A RL property may or may not be currently insured by the NFIP.

**Section 1316** means that section of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended, which states that no new flood insurance coverage shall be provided for any property that FEMA finds has been declared by a duly constituted state or local zoning authority or other authorized public body to be in violation of state or local laws, regulations, or ordinances that are intended to discourage or otherwise restrict land development or occupancy in flood-prone areas.

**Severe Repetitive Loss Structure** means any insured property that has met at least one of the following paid flood loss criteria since 1978, regardless of ownership:

1. Four or more separate claim payments of more than \$5,000 each (including building and contents payments); or
2. Two or more separate claim payments (building payments only) where the total of the payments exceeds the current market value of the property.

In either case, two of the claim payments must have occurred within ten years of each other. Multiple losses at the same location within ten days of each other are counted as one loss, with the payment amounts added together.

**Significant hazard dam** means a dam assigned the significant hazard potential classification where failure may cause damage to main roads, minor railroads, or cause interruption of use, or service of relatively important public utilities.

**Special flood hazard area (SFHA)** means that portion of the floodplain subject to inundation by the base flood and/or flood-related erosion hazards as shown on a FHBM or FIRM as Zone A, AE, A1 – A30, AH, AO, AR, AR/A1-A30, AR/AE, AR/AO, AR/AH, AR/A, A99, V, VE, or V1-V30.



**Start of construction** (for other than new construction or substantial improvements under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act P. L. 97-348), includes substantial improvement, and means the date the building permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, or improvement was within 180 days of the permit date. The actual start means the first placement of permanent construction of a building (including a manufactured home) on a site, such as the pouring of slabs or footings, installation of piles, construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation or placement of a manufactured home on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading and filling; nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it include excavation for a basement, footings, piers or foundations or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it include the installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main building. For substantial improvement, the actual start of construction means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

**Structure**, for floodplain management purposes, means a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home.

**Structure**, for insurance purposes, means a building with two or more outside rigid walls and a fully secured roof, that is affixed to a permanent site; a manufactured home built on a permanent chassis, transported to its site in one or more sections, and affixed to a permanent foundation; or a travel trailer without wheels, built on a chassis and affixed to a permanent foundation, that is regulated under the community's floodplain management and building ordinances or laws. The term does not include recreational vehicle or a park trailer or other similar vehicle, except as described in the last part of this definition, or a gas, or a liquid storage tank.

**Subrogation** means an action brought by FEMA when flood damages have occurred, a flood insurance claim has been paid, and all or part of the damage can be attributed to acts or omissions by a community or other third party.

**Substantial Damage** means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred. "Substantial damage" also means flood-related damages sustained by a structure on two separate occasions during a 10-year period for which the cost of repairs at the time of each flood event, on the average, equals or exceeds 25 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

**Substantial Improvement** means any combination of reconstruction, rehabilitation, or other improvement of a structure taking place during a 10-year period, in which the cumulative percentage of improvement equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the "start of construction" of the improvement. The costs for determining substantial improvement include the costs of additions. This term includes structures which have incurred repetitive loss or substantial damage, regardless of the actual repair work performed.

The term does not apply to:

- a.) Any project for improvement of a building required to comply with existing health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the Code Enforcement Official and which are solely necessary to assure safe living conditions, provided that said code deficiencies were not caused by neglect or lack of maintenance on the part of the current or previous owners or;
- b.) Any alteration of a "historic structure" provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a "historic structure."

**Substantially improved existing manufactured home parks or subdivisions** means manufactured home parks or subdivisions where the repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement of the streets, utilities and pads equals or exceeds 50 percent of the value of the streets, utilities and pads before the repair, reconstruction or improvement commenced.

**Suspension** means the removal, with or without probation, of a participating community from the NFIP because the community failed to adopt and enforce the compliant floodplain management regulations required for participation in the NFIP.

**Variance** is a grant of relief from the requirements of this ordinance.

**Violation** means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with this ordinance. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in this ordinance is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided.

**Watercourse** means any flowing body of water including a river, creek, stream, or a branch.

**Water surface elevation** means the height, in relation to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929, the North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) of 1988, (or other datum, where specified) of floods of various magnitudes and frequencies in the floodplains of coastal or riverine areas.

**X zone** means the area where the flood hazard is less than that in the SFHA. Shaded X shown on recent FIRMs (B on older FIRMs) designate areas subject to inundation by the flood with a 0.2-percent annual probability of being equaled or exceeded (aka 500-year flood). Unshaded X (C on older FIRMs) designates areas where the annual exceedance probability of flooding is less than 0.2 percent.

**Zone** means a geographical area shown on a Flood Hazard Boundary Map or a Flood Insurance Rate Map that reflects the severity or type of flooding in the area.

### **ARTICLE 3. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

#### **SECTION A. LANDS TO WHICH THIS ORDINANCE APPLIES.**

This ordinance shall apply to all areas within jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors of Lamar County.

#### **SECTION B. BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING THE AREAS OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD.**

The areas of special flood hazard identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the Lamar County Flood Insurance Study, dated March 2, 2010 with the accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Map(s) (FIRM) (multiple panels) Index No. 28073IND0A, and other supporting data, along with the New Countywide Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps are adopted by reference and declared to be a part of this ordinance. The Flood Insurance Study and maps are on file at: [the Lamar County Planning Department](#).

#### **SECTION C. USE OF PRELIMINARY FLOOD HAZARD DATA.**

When Flood Insurance Studies and Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps have been provided by FEMA:

- (1) Prior to the issuance of a Letter of Final Determination (LFD) by FEMA, the use of the preliminary flood hazard data shall only be required where no base flood elevations and/or floodway areas exist or where the preliminary base flood elevations or floodway area exceed the base flood elevations and/or floodway widths in the effective flood hazard data provided by FEMA. Such preliminary data may be subject to revision through valid appeals.
- (2) Upon the issuance of a Letter of Final Determination (LFD) by FEMA, the revised flood hazard data shall be used and replace all previously effective flood hazard data provided by FEMA for the purposes of administrating these regulations.

Where adopted regulatory standards conflict, the more stringent base flood elevation shall prevail. Preliminary FIS data may be subject to change by a valid appeal.

#### **SECTION D. ESTABLISHMENT OF FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMIT.**

A development permit shall be required in conformance with the provision of this ordinance prior to the commencement of any development activities in identified areas of special flood hazard and community flood hazard areas within the community.