



FEMA

## The ‘What is My Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE)’ Address Lookup Tool: A Quick and Easy Way to Get the ABFE for Your Property

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has created Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFEs) to show a more current picture of flood risk for certain communities in New Jersey and New York affected by Hurricane Sandy. Community officials, property owners, and others can use the ABFE information to understand where flood risk exists and to decide whether to build to higher elevations based on what has been learned from Sandy.

*Additional information about ABFEs, including answers to Frequently Asked Questions is available through FEMA’s Region 2 Coastal Outreach website at [www.region2coastal.com](http://www.region2coastal.com).*

The ‘What is My ABFE’ address lookup tool, available through FEMA’s Region 2 Coastal Outreach website ([www.region2coastal.com](http://www.region2coastal.com)) is a simple way to get a customized report showing the current and advisory flood risk for your property.

### Getting Started with the ‘What is My ABFE’ Tool

To find out what information is available for your property, follow these easy steps:

1. Navigate to the webpage labeled “What is my ABFE?” through the Hurricane Sandy tab on <http://www.region2coastal.com/>.



2. Once you are on the ‘What is My ABFE’ page, scroll down until you see the ‘Enter your address here’ field (Figure 1 below). Enter your address and click the “Get Details” button. (See browser limitations in the box to the right.)

*Internet Explorer users: This message will appear when the ‘Get Details’ button is clicked on: “Do you want to view only the webpage content that was delivered securely?” In order to view your report, click the ‘No’ button.*

*Google Chrome users: The ‘Get Details’ button will need to be clicked on twice in order for the report to be generated (due to browser limitations).*

3. A “flag” () will be added to the map banner below the address field indicating the location of information provided by the tool. Find your home on the map and click on your house.



- The data fields below the map banner will provide you with an overview of ABFE and related information at the location you placed the flag (graphic). Print the report (using your browser's printing capabilities) and take it to your local building and permitting authority to understand the building requirements for your property.

After you have generated a report using the steps above, you can also click on any other location on the locator map. The report will automatically update and include information for the new location, and the new address will be shown in the address bar field.

To enter a different address after generating a report, first click the '**Clear Details**' button.

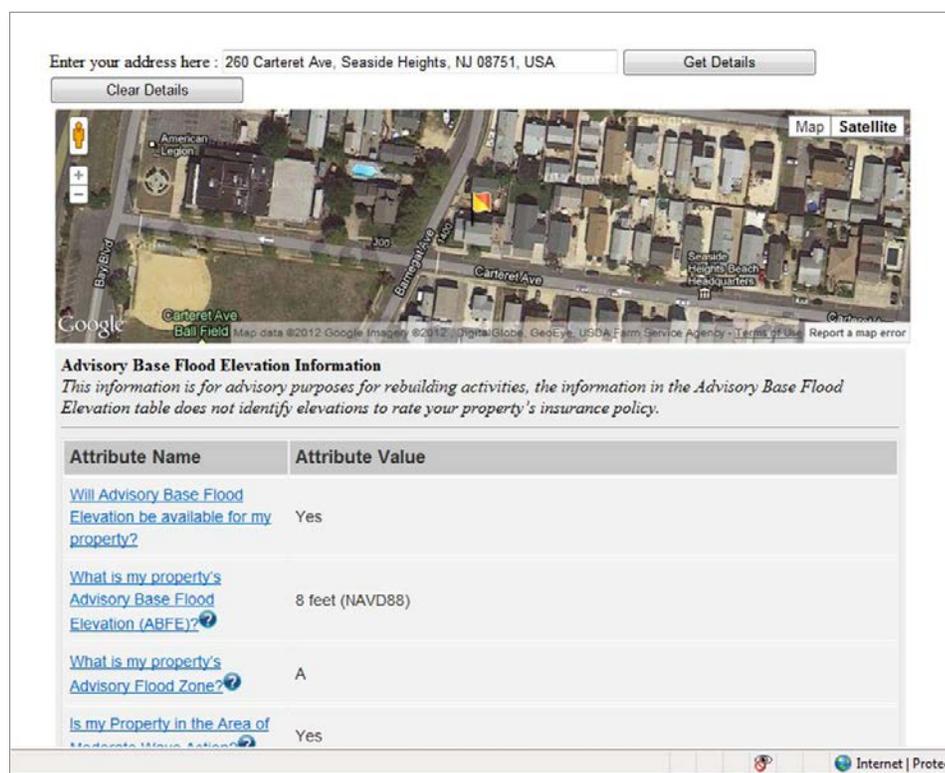


Figure 1

*DISCLAIMER: The information generated on each 'What is My ABFE' report is dependent on the location of the point location of the flag (graphic). The flood information included in the report tables is not a regulatory determination. Results from the 'What is My ABFE Tool' are not intended for insurance rating purposes and is for information only. The positional accuracy may be compromised in some areas. The address locator is not 100% accurate in identifying your address. Property owners should contact their local floodplain administrator for more*



information or to view an official copy of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps and discuss the ABFEs in the vicinity of their property prior to starting any reconstruction activity.

## Reading the 'What is My ABFE' report

The report generated by the 'What is My ABFE' tool is divided into two sections (Figure 2). The first section of the report contains the advisory flood hazard information for your property. This information is intended to be used for rebuilding activities. The information in this table does not identify elevations to rate your property's insurance policy. The second section of the report contains information from the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for your community. This information is used to rate your property's insurance policy and is also used by your community to regulate development in floodprone areas.

To get more information about a question in the report, scroll your mouse over the question mark icon to the right of the question, or click on the hyperlinked question in the left column. The report also contains hyperlinks to view the .pdf map panel your property is located on or to view your property on FEMA's interactive ABFE map. For GIS software users, data layers are also available for download in ESRI shapefile format.

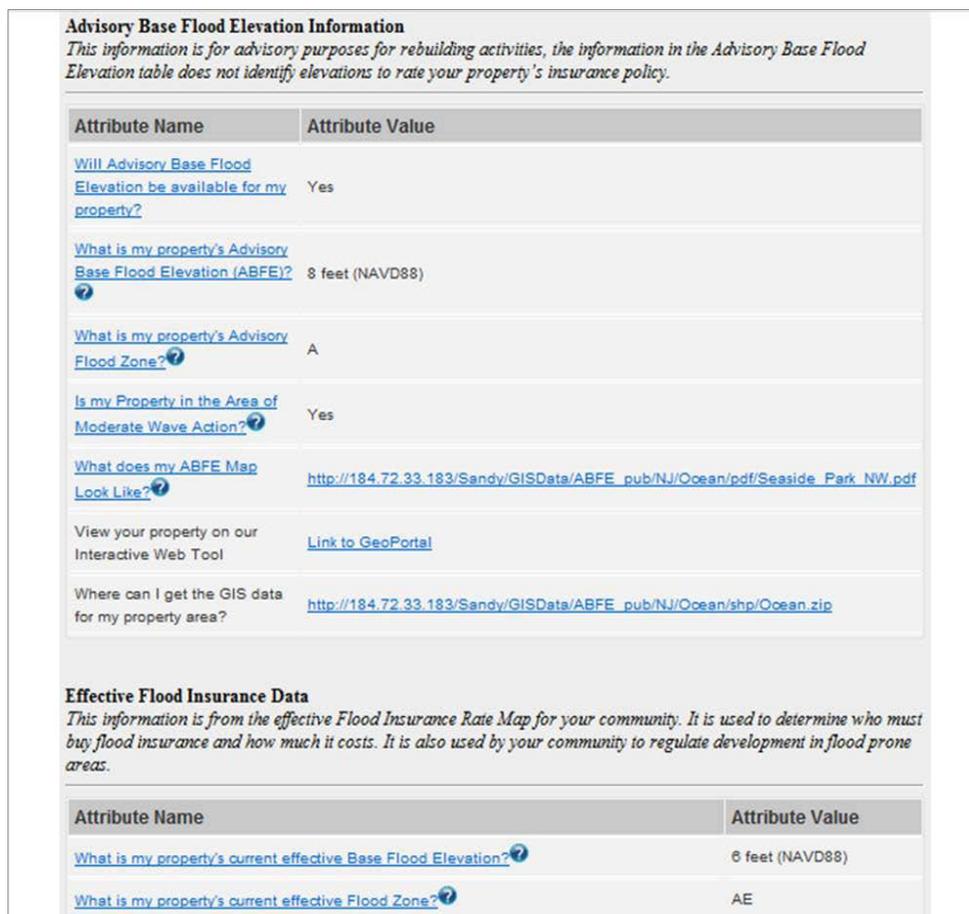


Figure 2



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## How Should I Use the Information in the Report?

As you make decisions for rebuilding and reconstruction, the information provided by the 'What is My ABFE' tool will provide you with an understanding of the possibility of flooding and coastal wave actions that affect your property. Investigations conducted by FEMA and other organizations after major coastal disasters have consistently shown that properly sited, well-designed, and well-constructed coastal residential buildings generally perform well. This information can assist you in your rebuilding efforts and provides a centralized point of risk information for you to discuss permitting requirements with your local building and permitting staff.

- Local building and permitting varies by community. This information will allow you to meet with your local building and permitting authority to discuss your individual property building requirements.
- Before building, property and business owners should consult their local government officials to determine the mandatory elevations and any construction requirements for their home or building.
- Consider elevating your home's lowest floor above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Elevating your structure is a good way to reduce your risk of flooding even if your property is not currently subject to flooding.
- Elevating your home above the BFE or ABFE (whichever is higher) will also provide a future reduction in flood insurance premiums.
- If your property is subject to coastal wave action, consider breakaway walls and other structural building measures that will allow the building to remain after a storm event.
- Consider relocating your structure (if possible) to minimize the hazards your home or business may encounter.

**Questions or comments? Call the National Flood Insurance Program Help Center at 1(800) 427-4661 or contact us through our [online form](#) today.**