

Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) Zone Definition

This table is for use with the [MassGIS Q3 Flood Zones](#) theme. It describes the attributes of the ZONE field.

ZONES symbolized in MassGIS coverage	ZONES not symbolized in MassGIS coverage
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<u>Zone Name</u>	<u>ZONE</u>	<u>SFHA</u>	<u>SYMBOL</u>	<u>Description</u>
Zone V	V	In	1	An area inundated by 100-year flooding with velocity hazard (wave action); no BFEs have been determined.
Zone VE	VE	In	2	An area inundated by 100-year flooding with velocity hazard (wave action); BFEs have been determined.
Zone A	A	In	3	An area inundated by 100-year flooding, for which no BFEs have been determined.
Zone AE	AE	In	4	An area inundated by 100-year flooding, for which BFEs have been determined.
Zone AO	AO	In	5	An area inundated by 100-year flooding (usually sheet flow on sloping terrain), for which average depths have been determined; flood depths range from 1 to 3 feet.
Zone AO (Alluvial Fan)	AOVEL	In	6	An alluvial fan inundated by 100-year flooding (usually sheet flow on sloping terrain), for which average flood depths and velocities have been determined; flood depths range from 1 to 3 feet.
Zone AH	AH	In	7	An area inundated by 100-year flooding (usually an area of ponding), for which BFEs have been determined; flood depths range from 1 to 3 feet.
Zone A99	A99	In	8	An area inundated by 100-year flooding, for which no BFEs have been determined. This is an area to be protected from the 100-year flood by a Federal flood protection system under construction.
Zone D	D	Out	9	An area of undetermined but possible flood hazards.
Zone AR	AR	In	10	An area inundated by flooding, for which BFEs or average depths have been determined. This is an area that was previously, and will again, be protected from the 100-year flood by a Federal flood protection system whose restoration is Federally funded and underway.
Zone X (500-year)	X500	Out	11	An area inundated by 500-year flooding; an area inundated by 100-year flooding with average depths of less than 1 foot or with drainage areas less than 1 square mile; or an area protected by levees from 100-year flooding.
Zone X	X	Out	12	An area that is determined to be outside the 100- and 500-year floodplains.
100-year Flood	100IC	In	13	An area where the 100-year flooding is contained

Discharge Contained in Channel				within the channel banks and the channel is too narrow to show to scale. An arbitrary channel width of 3 meters is shown. BFEs are not shown in this area, although they may be reflected on the corresponding profile.
500-year Flood Discharge Contained in Channel	500IC	Out	14	An area where the 500-year flooding is contained within the channel banks and the channel is too narrow to show to scale. An arbitrary channel width of 3 meters is shown.
Floodway Contained in Channel	FWIC	In	15	An area where the floodway is contained within the channel banks and the channel is too narrow to show to scale. An arbitrary channel width of 3 meters is shown. BFEs are not shown in this area, although they may be reflected on the corresponding profile.
Flood Prone Area	FPQ	In	16	An area designated as a "Flood Prone Area" on a map prepared by USGS and the Federal Insurance Administration. This area has been delineated based on available information on past floods. This is an area inundated by 100-year flooding for which no BFEs have been determined.
Area in SFHA	IN	In	17	An area designated as within a "Special Flood Hazard Area" (or SFHA) on a FIRM. This is an area inundated by 100-year flooding for which BFEs or velocity may have been determined. No distinctions are made between the different flood hazard zones that may be included within the SFHA. These may include Zones A, AE, AO, AH, A99, AR, V, or VE.
Area Outside SFHA	OUT	Out	18	An area designated as outside a "Special Flood Hazard Area"(or SFHA) on a FIRM. This is an area inundated by 500-year flooding; an area inundated by 100-year flooding with average depths of less than 1 foot or with drainage areas less than 1 square mile; an area protected by levees from 100-year flooding; or an area that is determined to be outside the 100- and 500-year floodplains. No distinctions are made between these different conditions. These may include both shaded and unshaded areas of Zone X.
Area Not Included	ANI	Out	0	An area that is located within a community or county that is not mapped on any published FIRM.
Area of Undesignated Flood Hazard	UNDES	Out	0	A body of open water, such as a pond, lake ocean, etc., located within a community's jurisdictional limits, that has no defined flood hazard.

This table was modified from "TABLE 4: SFHA Zone Definition" in data provided by [FEMA](#).