



**BUILDING
INNOVATION** 2019

National Institute of
BUILDING SCIENCES
CONFERENCE & EXPO

National Institute of Building Sciences

Provider Number: G168

Improving the Flood Resistance of Buildings and Mitigation Techniques

WE3B

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Course Description

Severe flooding can endanger life, but even moderate levels of flooding can lead to extensive damages and disruption of building operations. Water source contamination and inhibited access are significant problems, coupled with damages to structures and interior contents. Contaminated water can destroy electrical infrastructure, mechanical systems, etc. Business interruption can last from a few days to over a year. Due to climate change and revisions to FEMA flood maps in 2016, many buildings not previously categorized as being at risk are now categorized as subject to flooding. As a result, insurers are informing their clients of the potential risks and associated increases in flood insurance coverage, if flood mitigation procedures are not enacted. This presentation will discuss how to identify areas of facilities vulnerable to flooding, and the options and systems available to protect properties from potentially catastrophic damages to structures, building contents and impacts on building operations. The speakers will focus on addressing potential hazards at existing facilities. It is usually not as easy as building a levee around the property. Oftentimes, a hybrid solution must be developed, incorporating a variety of systems, including barriers, flood gates, deployable flood walls, backflow devices, storage tanks and ejector pumps, upgraded stormwater systems, etc.





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Learning Objectives

At the end of the this course, participants will be able to:

1. Identify areas of facilities vulnerable to flooding
2. Identify options available to mitigate flooding
3. Review process of flood mitigation design and associated construction phasing.
4. Create a flood emergency response plan



**Weather Trends and Effects Upon
Sea Level Rise and Rainfall Amounts**

Types of Flooding / Design Criteria

Understanding Floodplain Mapping

**Flood Hazard Mitigation /
Management Plans**

Case Studies

EDITORIAL

Boston's bill for climate change is coming due



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

A man walks through a flooded sidewalk off Congress Street, where water was flowing over from Fort Point Channel in the Seaport District on March 2.

OCTOBER 18, 2018



Ellicott City, Md., deluged by flash flooding as heavy rain soaks area

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan has declared a state of emergency



Rescue personnel walk along Main Street in Ellicott City, Md., Sunday, May 27, 2018. Roaring flash floods struck the Maryland city Sunday that had been wracked by similar devastation two years ago, its main street turned into a raging river ... [more >](#)

By - Associated Press - Sunday, May 27, 2018





MIAMI BEACH

Before sea level rises, Miami Beach officials want to raise West Avenue 1½ to 2 feet

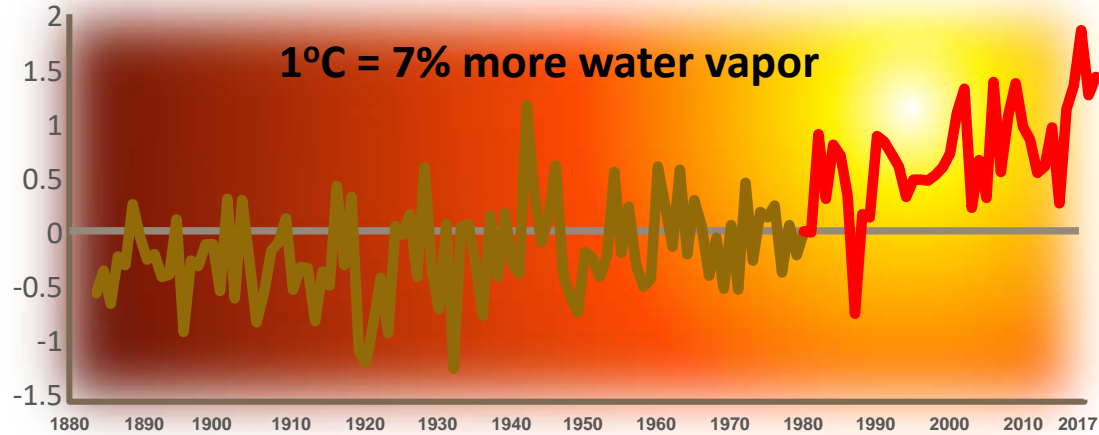
BY JOEY FLECHAS
jflechas@MiamiHerald.com

January 22, 2015 06:00 PM
Updated January 23, 2015 06:18 PM

In an area that has seen its fair share of roadwork during the past few years, city officials want to raise West Avenue between 1½ to 2 feet during the next few years in an effort to prepare one of the lowest-lying points of Miami Beach for anticipated sea level rise.

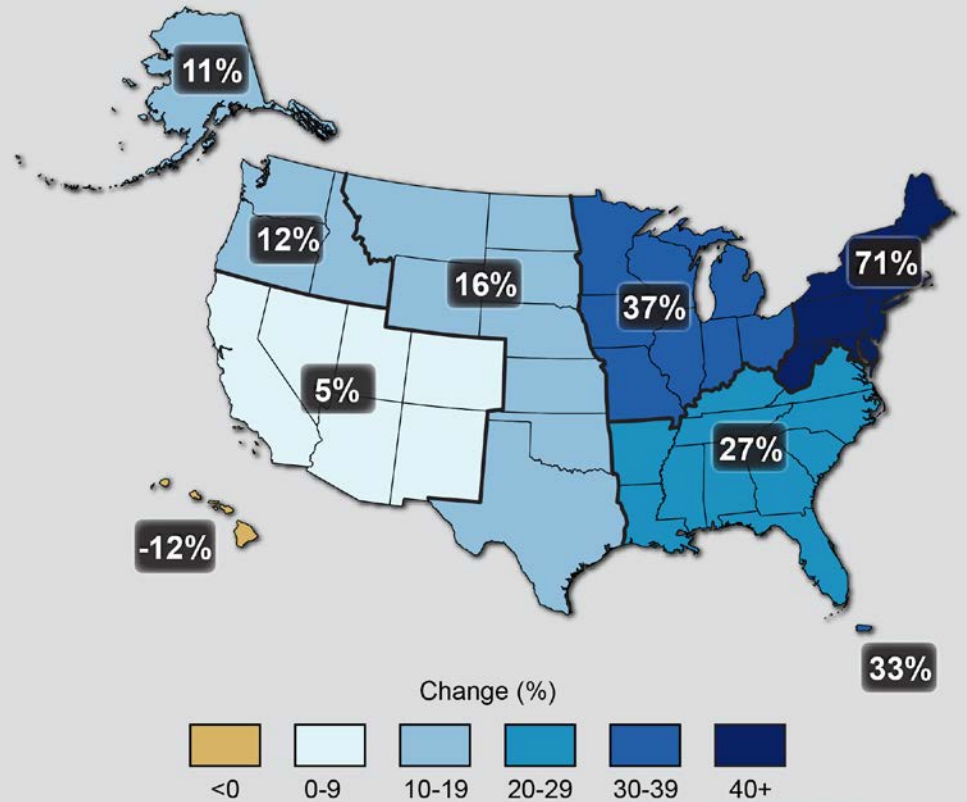


Difference from 20th century average (°C)



NOAA National Centers for Environmental information, Climate at a Glance: Global Time Series, published January 2018, from <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/caq/>

Global Mean Temperature is Increasing



NCA3_Climate_Change_Impacts

Observed Change in Very Heavy Precipitation



Types of Flooding

1%
High

0.2%
Moderate

Low

85%
of losses

500-Yr

100-Yr

Flood Exposure Hazard Level

Sheet Flow

- Localized Site Flooding
- Not Associated with a FEMA Flood Zone



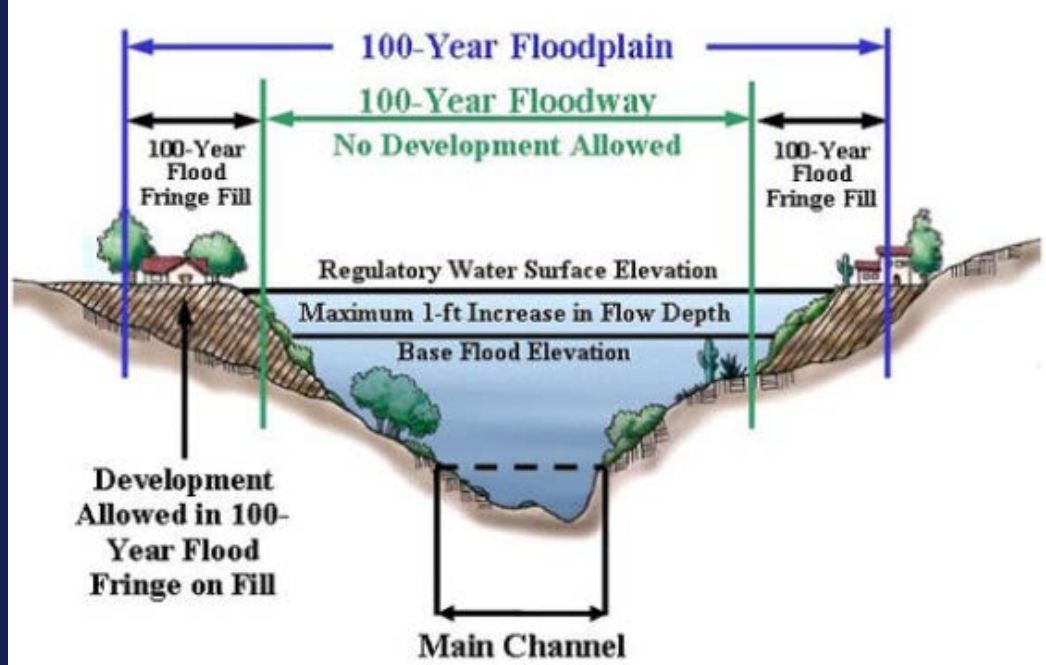
Rivers and Streams

- Zone A / AE

- 1% Base Flood Elevation
(100 year flood plain)

- Floodway –Velocity Zone

- Zone X - 0.2% Base Flood Elevation (500 year flood plain)



Coastal

- Coastal Zone VE & A/AE

- Wave Action

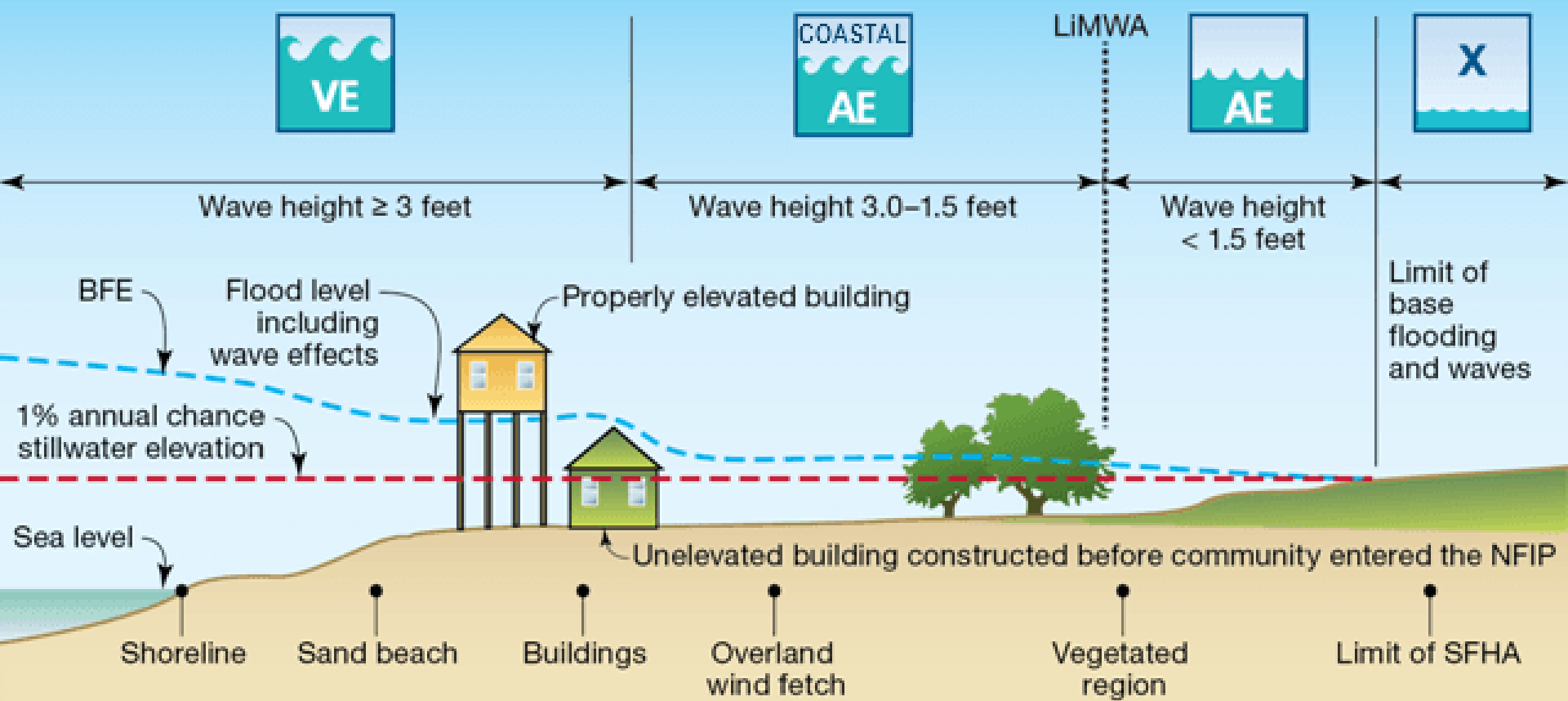
- Zone A/AE

- Stillwater (1% BFE)

- Zone X

- Stillwater (0.2% BFE)

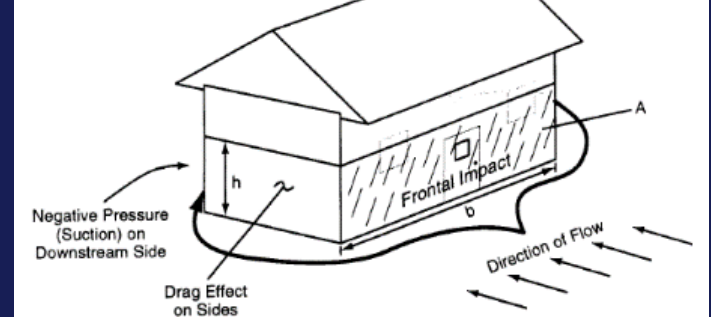




Coastal FEMA Flood Zones

Types of Flood Damage:

- Hydrodynamic Forces
- Debris Impact
- Hydrostatic Forces
- Soaking
- Sediment and Contaminants





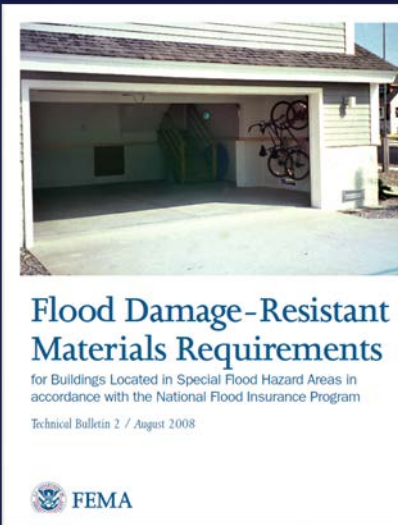
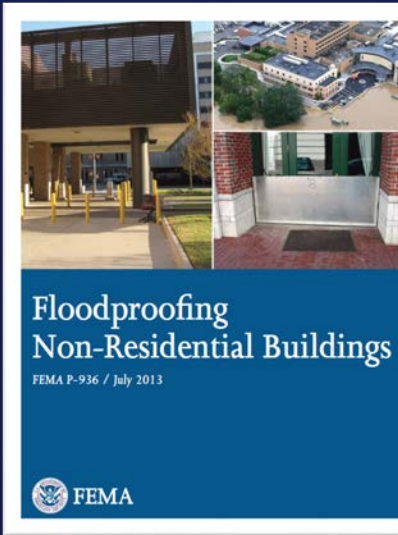
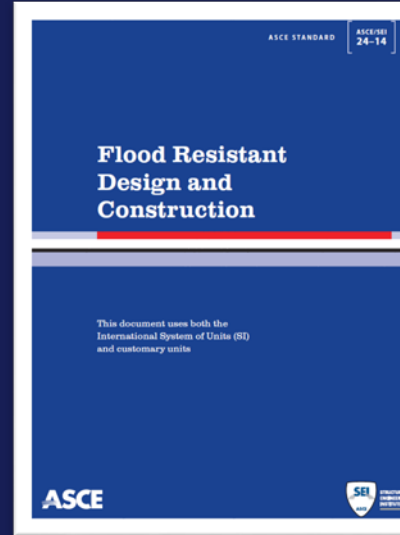
Understanding Floodplain Mapping

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

- Created in 1968; changes under National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994
- Based on a mutual agreement between Federal Government and community
- Three basic parts
 - Mapping
 - Insurance
 - Regulations



- ASCE 24 – Flood Resistant Design & Construction
 - Minimum design and construction of structures in flood hazard areas (new construction, substantial Improvements, historic structure exceptions)
 - Meets or Exceeds NFIP regulations
 - Requirements are functions of Flood Hazard Areas (Zone A, V, other high risk) and Structure Classification
- FEMA Technical Bulletins
 - FEMA P936 – Floodproofing Non-Residential Buildings
 - National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Regulations (44 CFR Parts 59 and 60)
 - International Building Codes (I-Codes)



Nature of Occupancy	Category
Buildings and other structures that present a low hazard to human life in the event of failure (e.g., agricultural facilities, certain temporary facilities, minor storage facilities)	I
All buildings and other structures except those listed in Categories I, III, and IV (e.g., most residential buildings)	II
Buildings and other structures that present a substantial hazard to human life in the event of failure (e.g., schools, theaters, jails)	III
Buildings and other structures designated as essential facilities (e.g., hospitals, fire stations, police stations, emergency operations centers, power generating stations and other public utility facilities required in an emergency)	IV

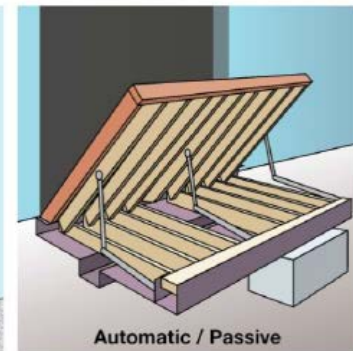
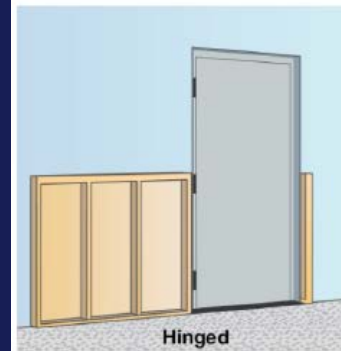
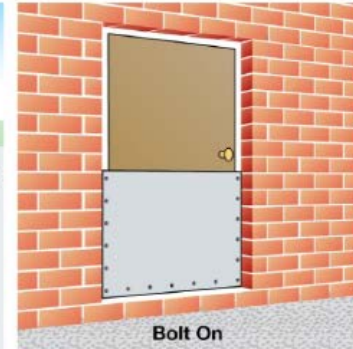
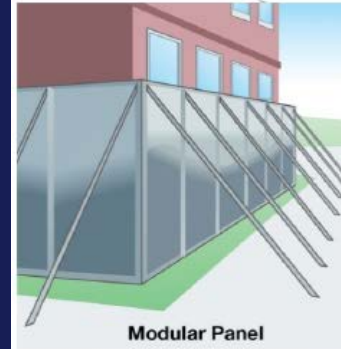
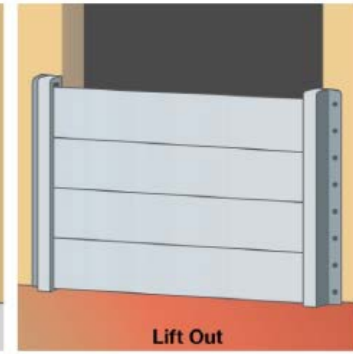
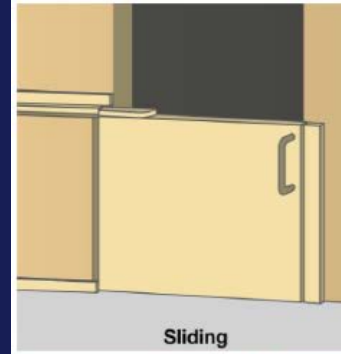
See next page for description of Flood Design Classes →

		Flood Design Class 1	Flood Design Class 2	Flood Design Class 3	Flood Design Class 4
Minimum Elevation* of Lowest Floor (Zone A: ASCE 24-14 Table 2-1)	Zone A not identified as Coastal A Zone	DFE	BFE +1 ft or DFE, whichever is higher	BFE +1 ft or DFE, whichever is higher	BFE +2 ft or DFE, or 500-year flood elevation, whichever is higher
Minimum Elevation of Bottom of Lowest Horizontal Structural Member (Zone V: ASCE 24-14 Table 4-1)	Coastal High Hazard Areas (Zone V) and Coastal A Zone	DFE	BFE +1 ft or DFE, whichever is higher	BFE +2 ft or DFE, whichever is higher	BFE +2 ft or DFE, or 500-year flood elevation, whichever is higher
Minimum Elevation Below Which Flood-Damage-Resistant Materials Shall be Used (Table ASCE 24-14 5-1)	Zone A not identified as Coastal A Zone	DFE	BFE +1 ft or DFE, whichever is higher	BFE +1 ft or DFE, whichever is higher	BFE +2 ft or DFE, or 500-year flood elevation, whichever is higher
	Coastal High Hazard Areas (Zone V) and Coastal A Zone	DFE	BFE +1 ft or DFE, whichever is higher	BFE +2 ft or DFE, whichever is higher	BFE +2 ft or DFE, or 500-year flood elevation, whichever is higher

Dry Flood Proofing:

A combination of measures that results in a structure, including the attendant utilities and equipment, being watertight with all elements substantially impermeable to the entrance of floodwater and with structural components having the capacity to resist flood loads.

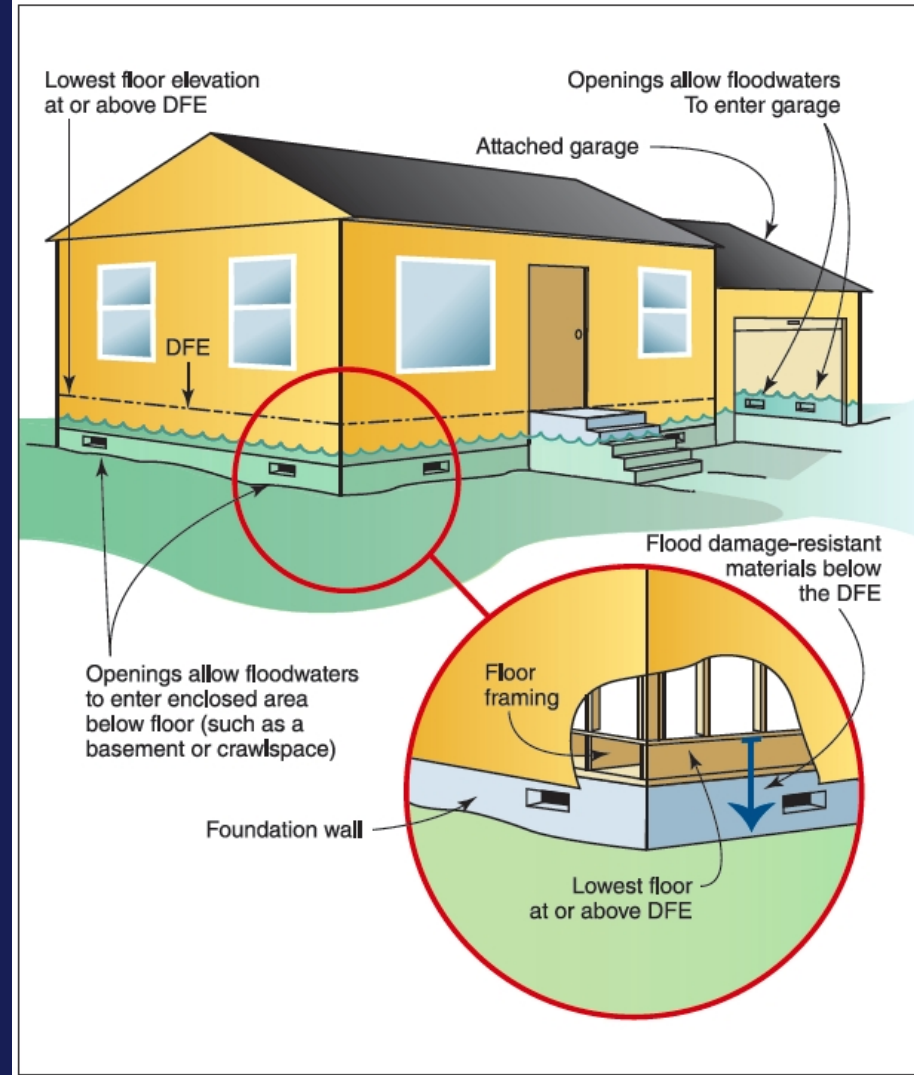
- Building strength/building locations
- Warning time
- Flood characteristics
- Level of protection
- Seepage considerations
- Utilities

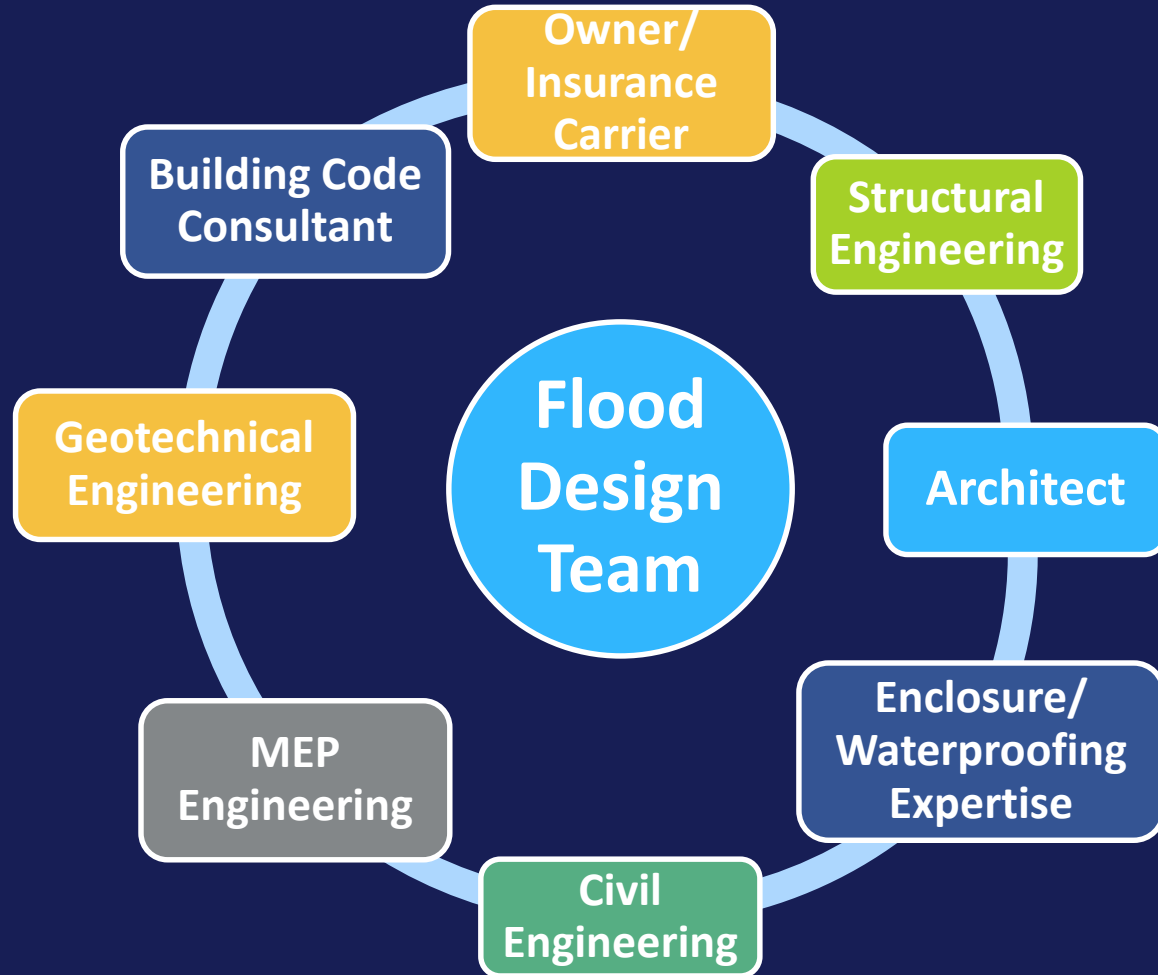


Wet Flood Proofing:

The use of flood-damage-resistant materials and construction techniques to minimize flood damage to areas below the flood protection level of a structure, which is intentionally allowed to flood.

- Building strength
- Warning time
- Flood-damage-resistant-materials
- Utilities







Flood Risk...



**2017: 3 Hurricanes, 26 Days, 2500 loss locations,
\$75-\$145 billion loss estimated industry wide**



Hurricane Harvey was a Flood Event

FIRE LOSSES

WEAK PRACTICES

US\$3,200,000

US\$724,000

STRONG PRACTICES

NATURAL CATASTROPHE LOSSES

WEAK PRACTICES

US\$3,400,000

US\$478,000

STRONG PRACTICES

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The Value of Risk Improvement

Flood losses experienced by FM Global clients who met our guidelines cost almost **5x less** than those that did not

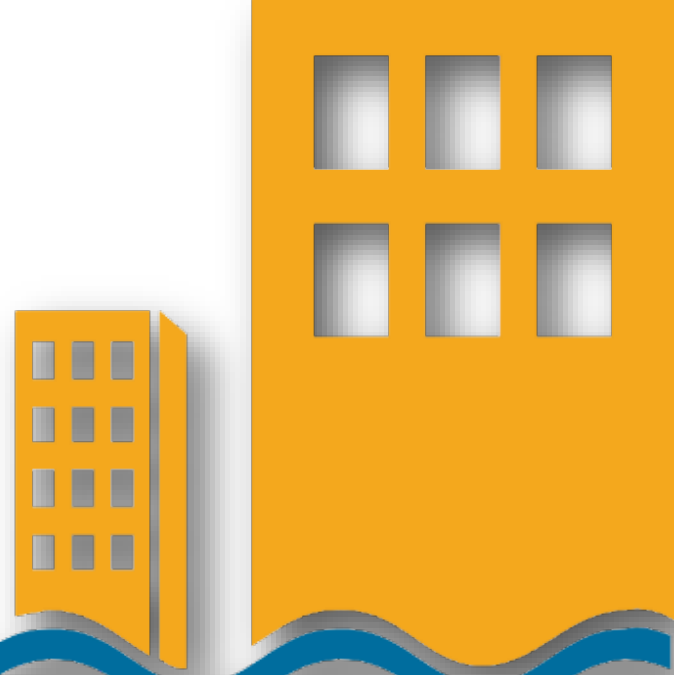


Hurricane Harvey

FM Global clients completed physical improvements and reduced their

overall loss exposure

by **\$820 million/\$23 million**
average



Hurricane Harvey

Flood Hazard Mitigation:

- Resiliency Goals
- Identifying areas of facilities vulnerable to flooding
- Develop flood emergency response plan (FERP)
- Identify options available to mitigate flooding
- ANSI/FM 2510 Approved Products



FERP - Simple Steps During Normal Working Hours to Mitigate Loss

**Monitor
Weather**

**Authority
to
Activate**

**Ample
Time**

**Plan for
Recovery**

**Review after
each
Implementation**



**Match the Right Solution to the Scenario
(Warning and Installation Time)**

If you are flood exposed, what can you do?

Besides moving out of the flood zone!



Relocate stock, particularly high-value items or those critical to continued operation



Relocate equipment, such as portable electronic equipment, computers, testing and quality-control devices, dies and patterns, etc.



Relocate vehicles that will be needed after the flood, such as plant trucks, forklifts, tractor-trailers, etc.



Relocate critical drawings, records, files



Raise Equipment and Supplies



Flood Barrier Examples

Protect Openings

Check all water entry points:

- Front door
- Side door
- Loading dock door
- Windows
- Vents
- Pipe penetrations
- Underground pipes





Protect individual pieces of equipment or portions of the building







Flood Mitigation Products – Perimeter Barriers



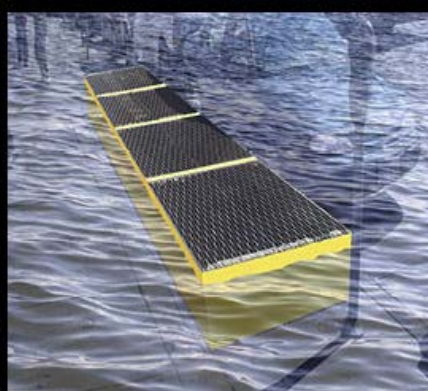
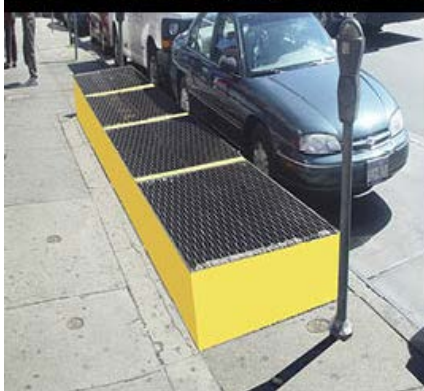
Permanent Flood Protection Barriers



All Barriers Should Meet ANSI/FM 2510 Standards



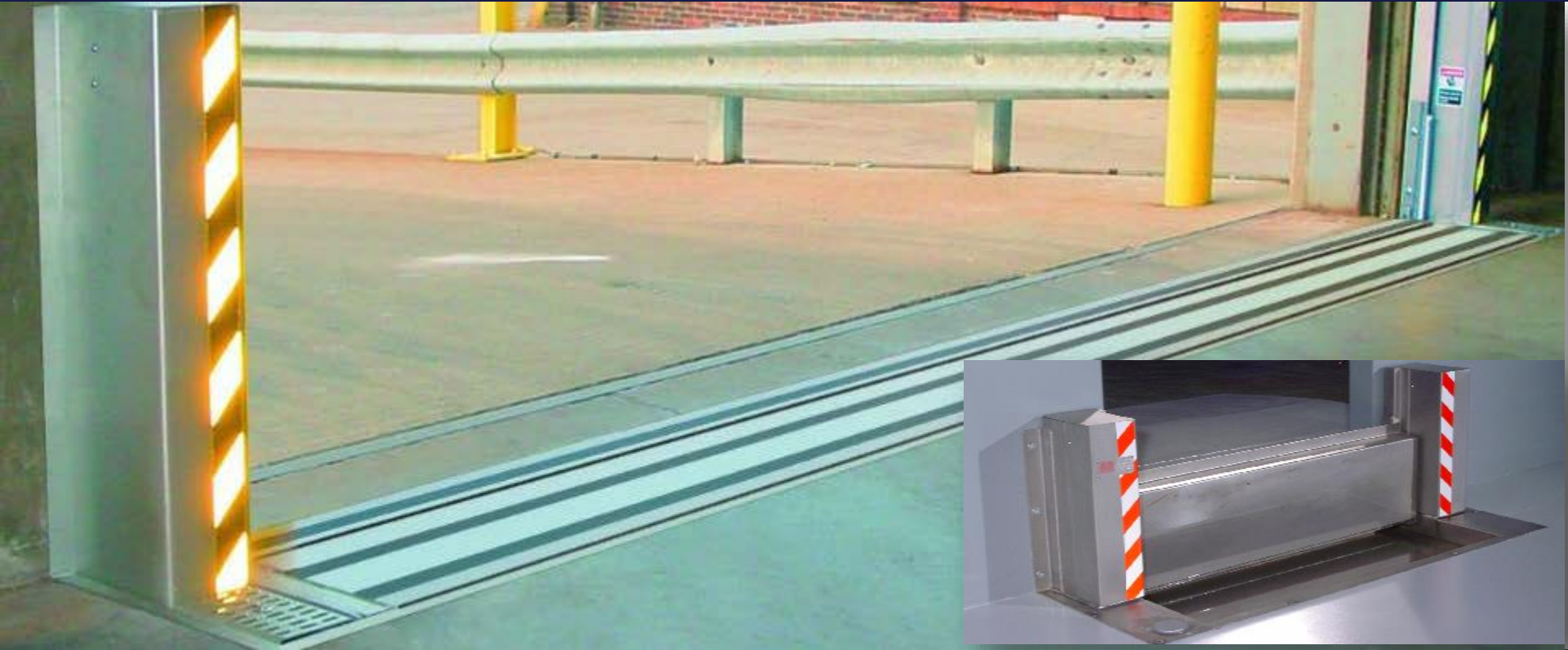
Perimeter flood panel system



Flood Protection for Subway Vents – Queens, NY



Flood Mitigation Products – Opening Barriers



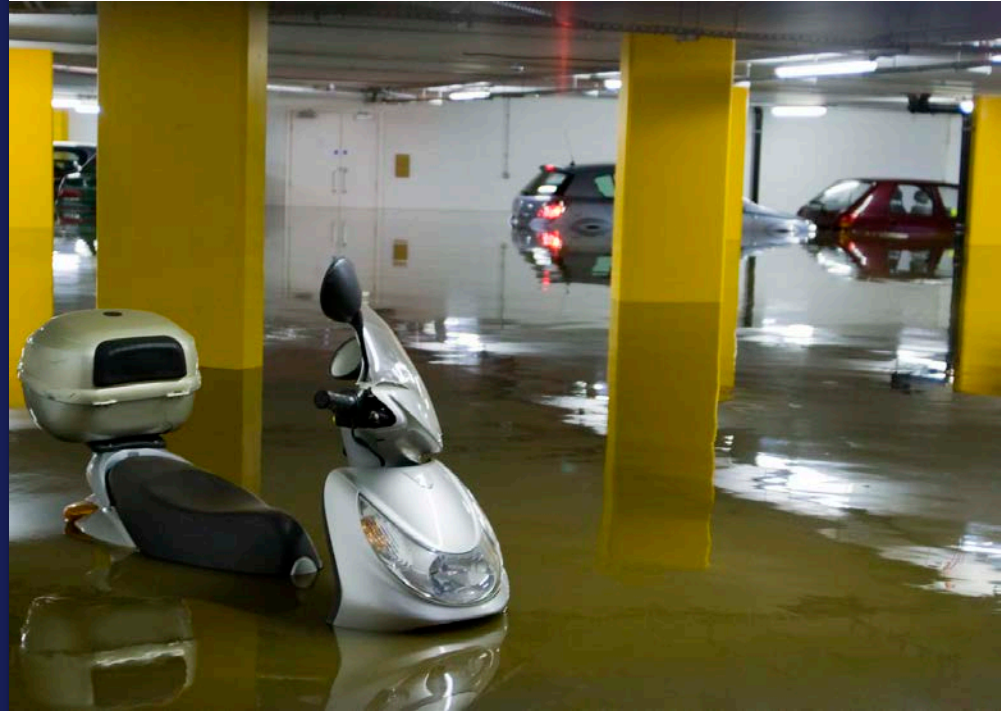
Automatic Pop-Up



Manually Deployed Opening Barrier

One Client's Story: Flooded in May 2015 and April 2016

- Office tower
- Outside the 500-year zone
- Four feet of water in garage
- Building utilities located in garage



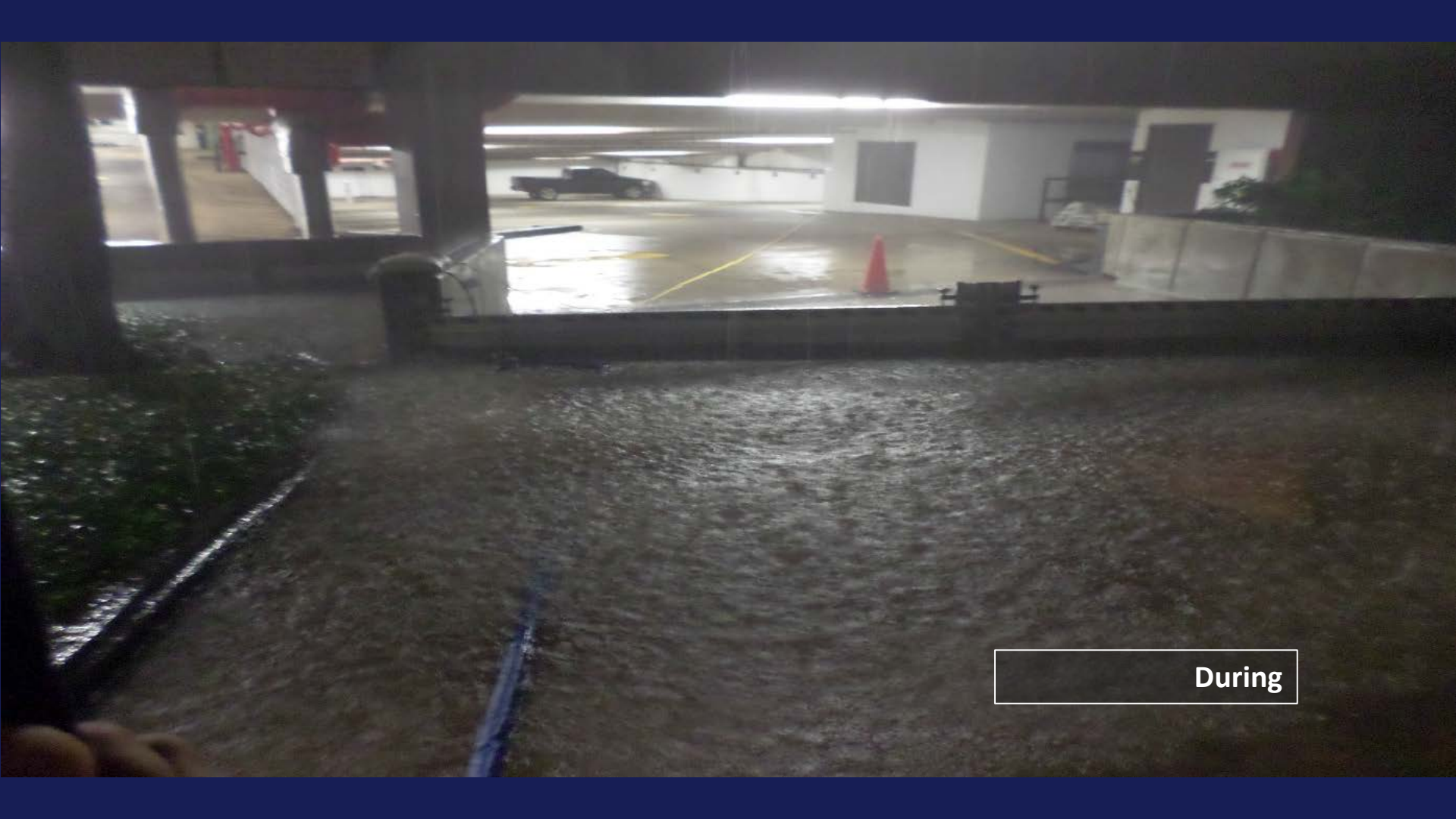
 Do NOT ENTER 

FDC
WEST LOOP S. BLDG.
CHIPS PLNS. 6-24
HYDRO PRESSURE 200 PSI
WATERS 1.5, 100% AT 1200
ALL FLOORS

FDC
TOWN WEST LOOP S. GARAGE
STAND-PIPE - PLNS. 8-11
HYDRO PRESSURE 200 PSI
SPRINKLER - SADDLE
PRVS. ALL FLOORS







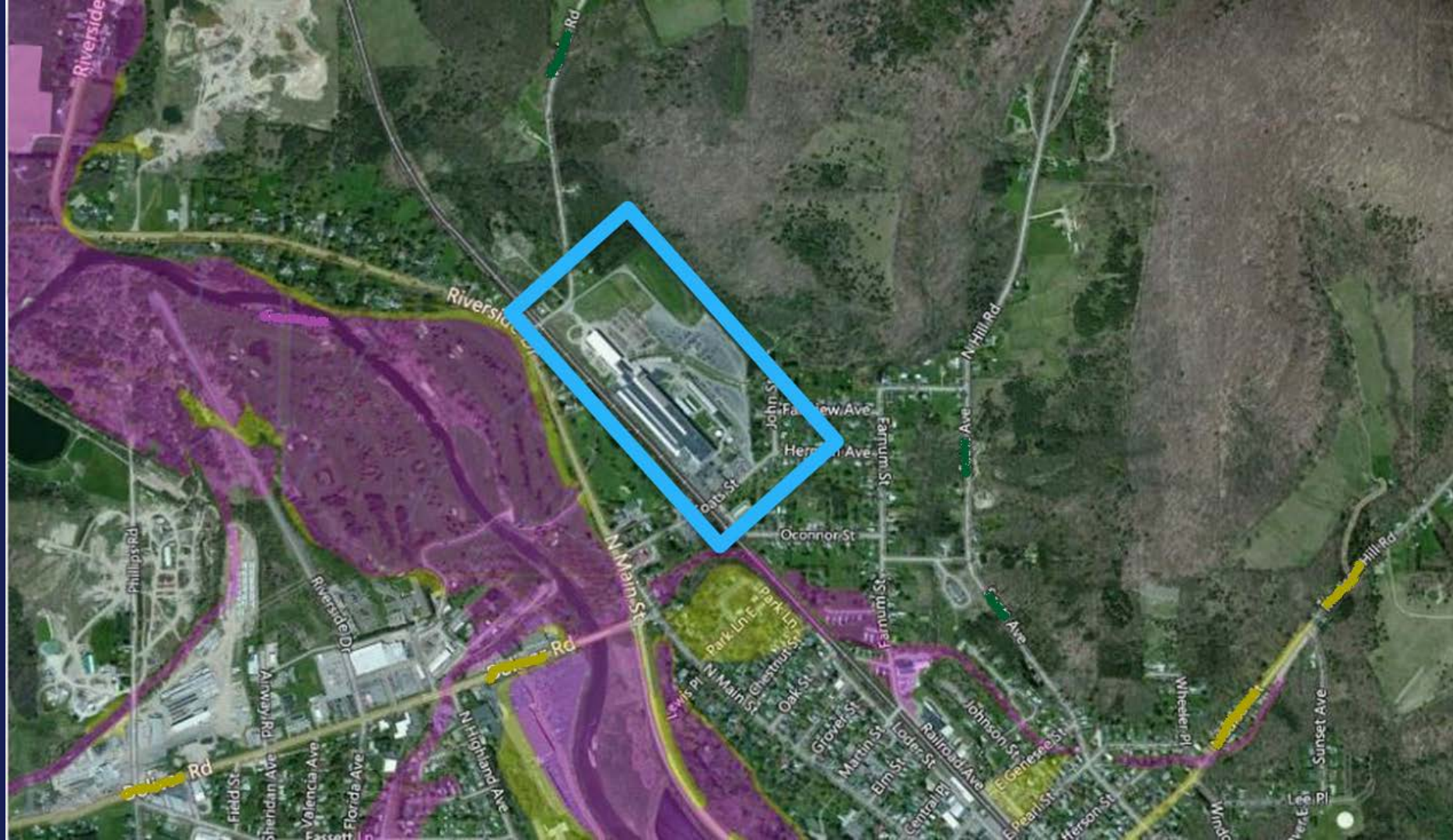
During

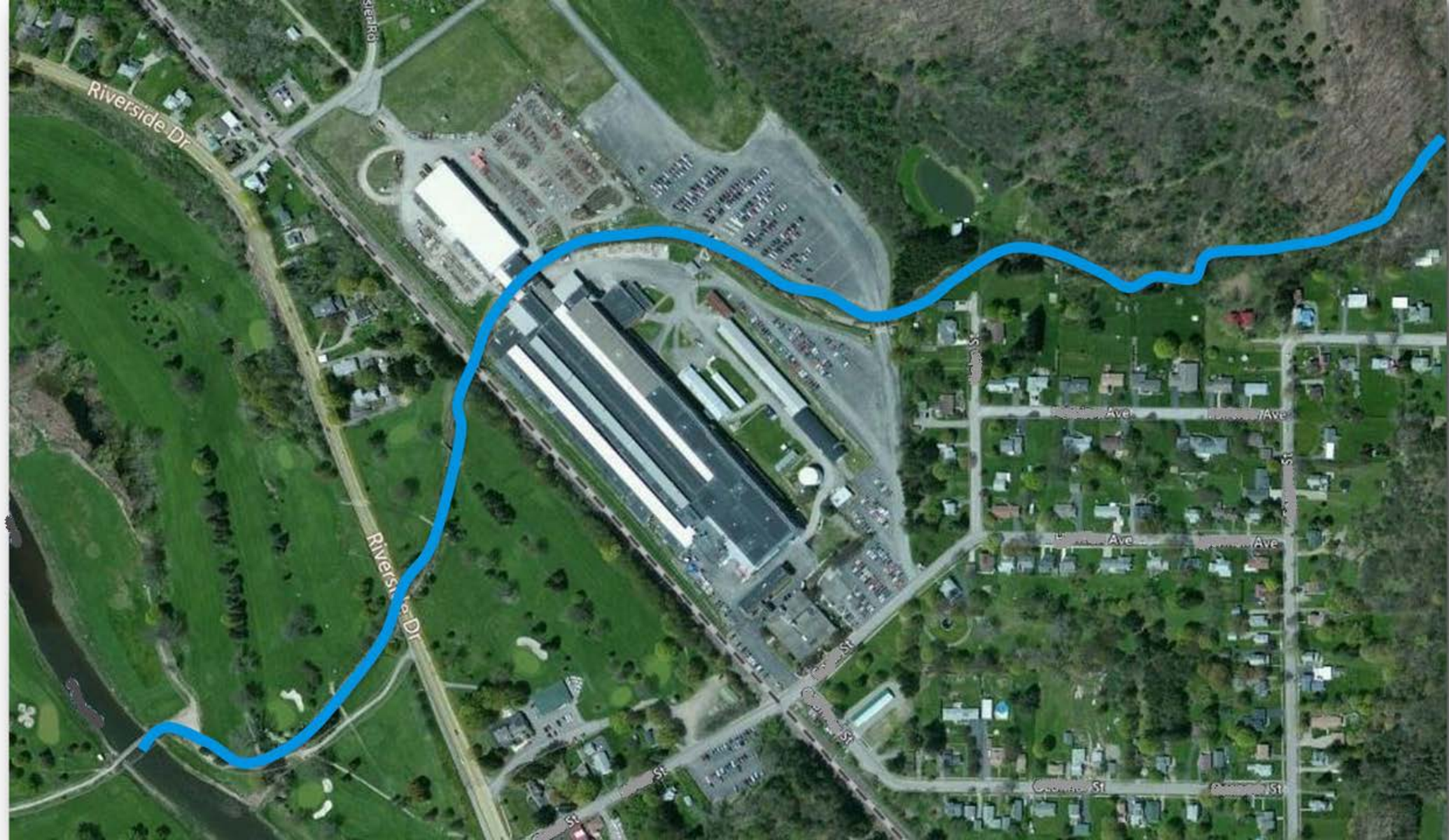


The Result



Case Study – River / Stream







Close to Building



Slope of Land





A River Runs Through It

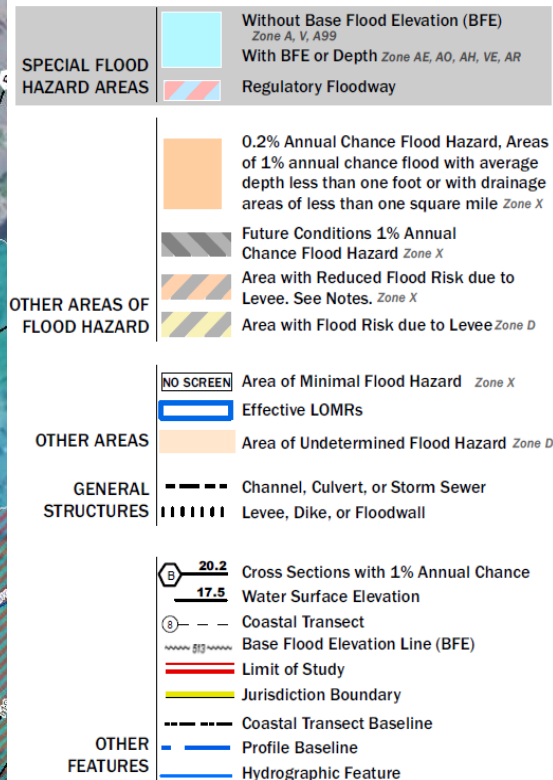


Case Study: Lexington, MA



Kiln Brook

Wetlands associated with Shawsheen River

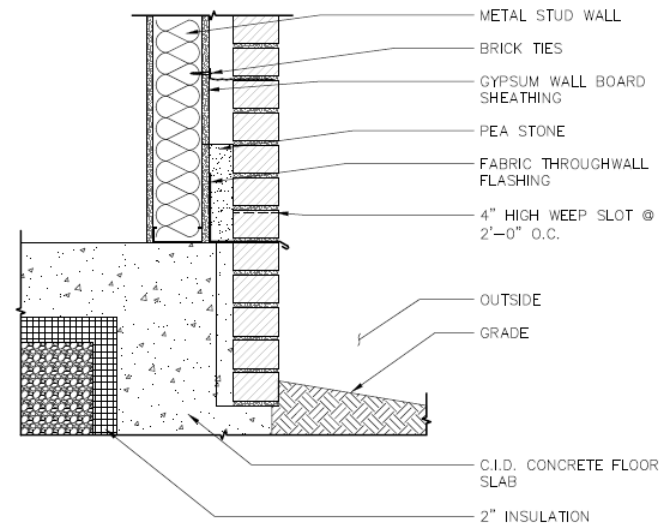
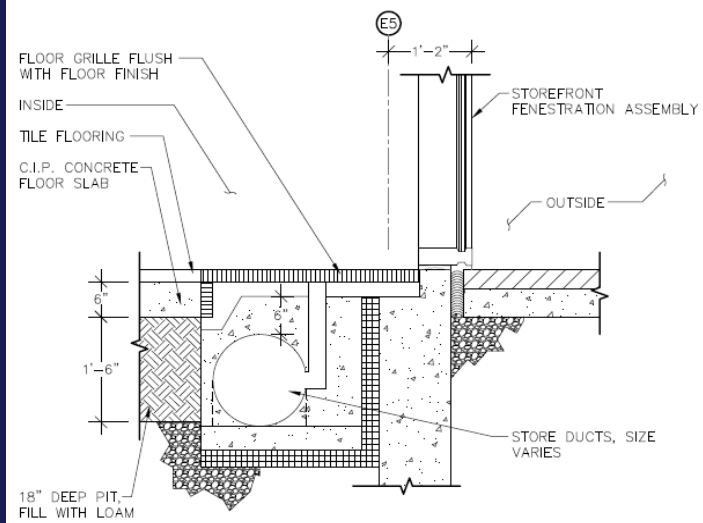


- Site within AE Zone and Regulatory Floodway
- Base Flood Elevation (BFE) is 118.50



- **Base Flood Elevation (BFE) is 118.50**
- **Surveyed first floor found to be at 118.00**
- **Building is 6" below BFE**

Floor mounted HVAC vents





Electrical/Mechanical Equipment Located on First Floor

Proposed Building Use: Office, Laboratory Space, and Cleanrooms

Flood Mitigation Options:

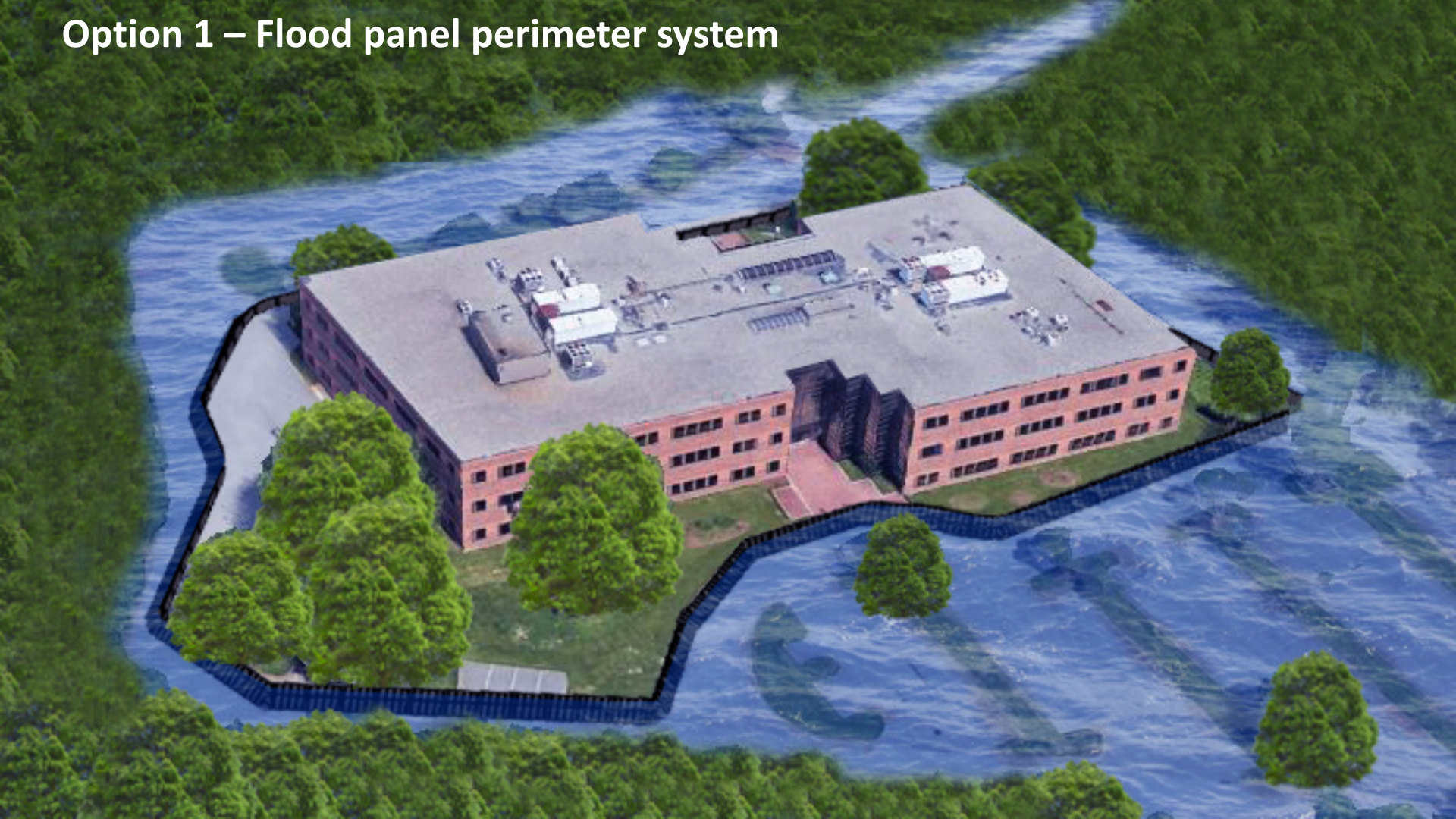
Wet Flood Proofing

Relocating all laboratory and cleanrooms to the second floor and installing isolated interior protection around mechanical , electrical, and communications rooms

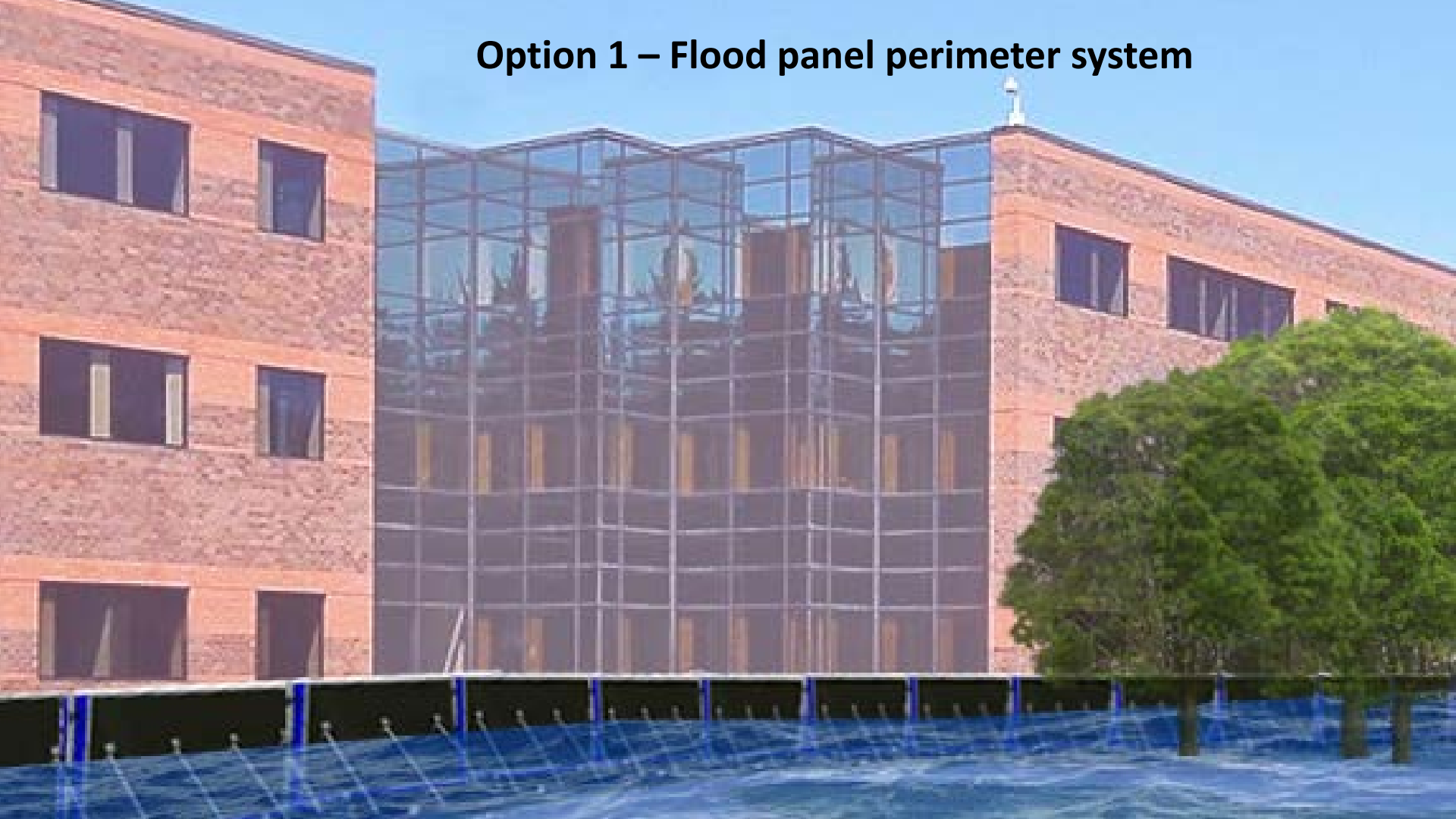
Dry Flood Proofing

Providing full building perimeter protection by installing permanent and/or temporary flood mitigation measures.

Option 1 – Flood panel perimeter system



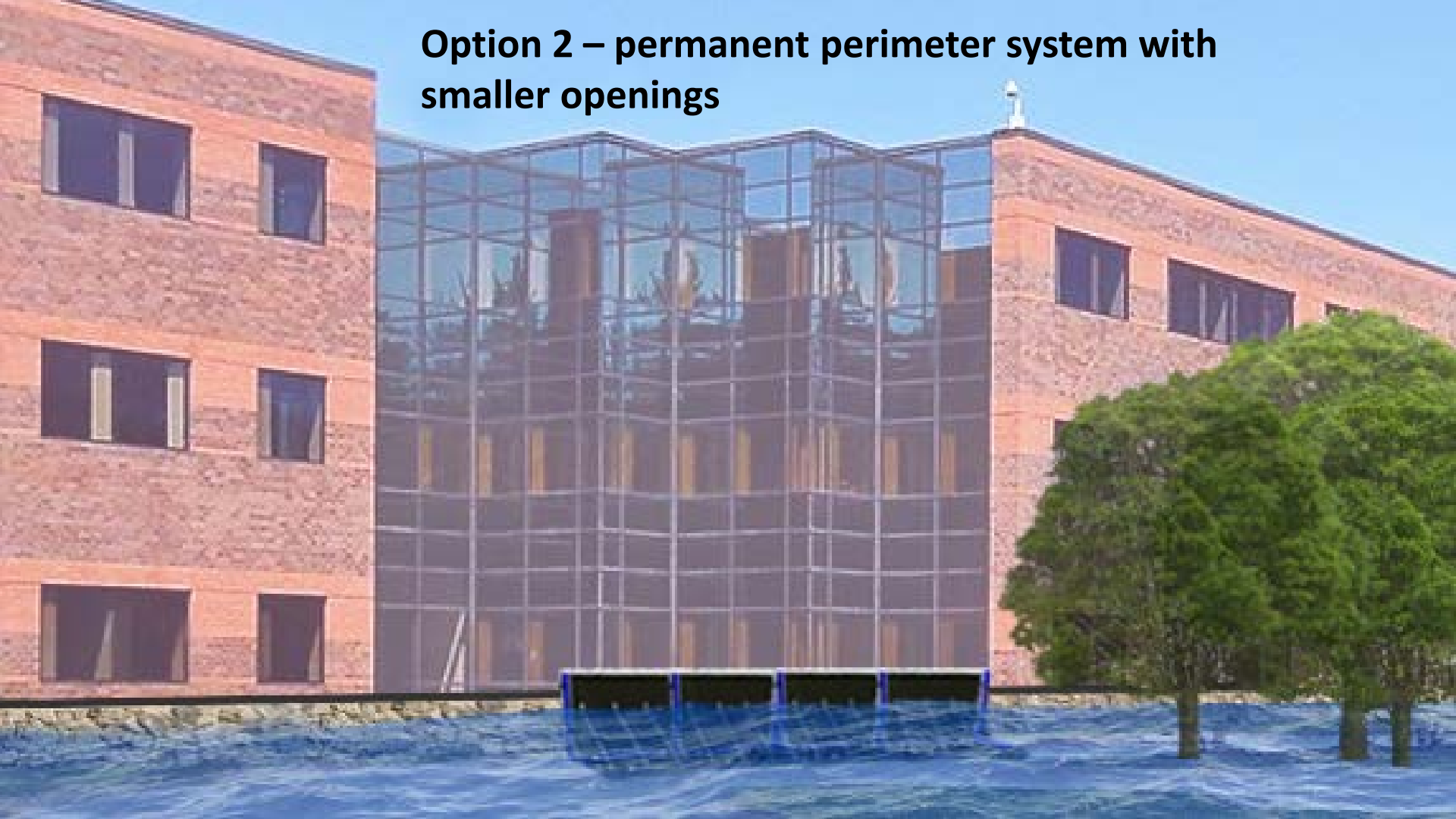
Option 1 – Flood panel perimeter system



Option 2 – permanent perimeter system with smaller openings



Option 2 – permanent perimeter system with smaller openings





Case Study: Atlantic Avenue, Boston, MA





FEMA Flood Map / AE Zone, BFE Elev. 10



First Floor / Garage, ELEV=10.2' BFE=10'
First Floor 2" above BFE
Basement 9 ½' below BFE



**Lower Level Basement Access
Open Grated for Boiler Ventilation**



Louver Penetrations



View from Sidewalk, Concrete Grade Beam



Continuous and Approved Flood Barrier



Main Entrance – Unprotected



**Flood Barrier at Entrance, Garage and
Basement Access**

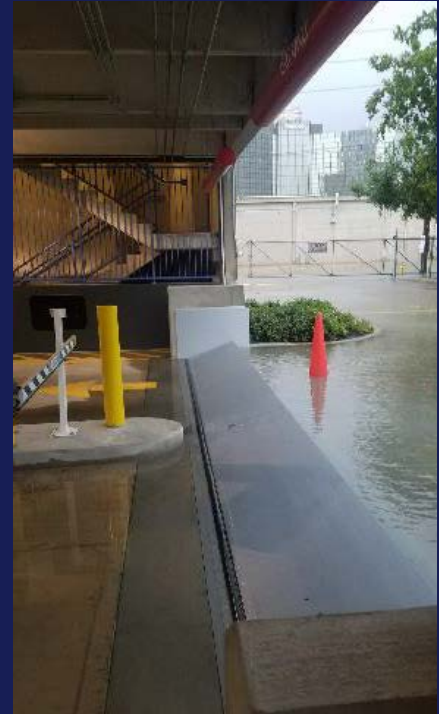


Changing How We Think

What Does It Take to Make “Futuristic” Ideas the Norm?



What Does It Take to Make “Futuristic” Ideas the Norm?





Key Takeaways

- Storms Have Increased in Severity and Frequency
- Even if You're Not in Flood Zone, You May Still Be Flood Exposed
- If You Are Exposed, There Are Things You Can Do to Minimize Risk



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This concludes The American Institute of Architects
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