



# BRISTOL TOWNSHIP

## Office of the Township Manager

2501 Bath Road · Bristol, PA 19007 · (215) 785-0500 · Fax (215) 785-2131

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Bristol Township Council in order to keep residents fully informed authorizes the release of the following statement:

### **FEMA HAS RECLASSIFIED PROPERTIES IN SEVERAL LARGE AREAS OF BRISTOL TOWNSHIP FOR FLOOD INSURANCE**

FEMA has released new maps for public review. The new maps – also known as digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) –reflect current flood risks. These new maps are available at the Bristol Township Administration Building for Bristol Township residents to review.

Residents shall investigate if their property in Bristol Township has been added to a higher flood risk zone, known as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). If a property owner is located in the new higher-risk area and has a mortgage from a federally-regulated lender, then by federal law, the lender must require the owner to carry flood insurance at the time the flood maps become effective. The required flood insurance is available through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), a federally underwritten program provided by nearly 100 insurance companies and written through licensed insurance agents. Lower-cost “Preferred Risk Policy” options are offered by the NFIP, for properties being mapped into higher-risk areas for the first time. For more information on flood insurance, you may want to visit the National Flood Insurance Program’s website, [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

**If there has been an error in the reclassification of the effected property, the owner must file a protest or appeal with FEMA. To learn more about the appeal process, see FEMA’s Criteria for Appeals of Flood Insurance Rate Maps Section 3.1 available through [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)**

Contact: Tom Scott, Director of Building & Planning  
(267) 812-2897

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