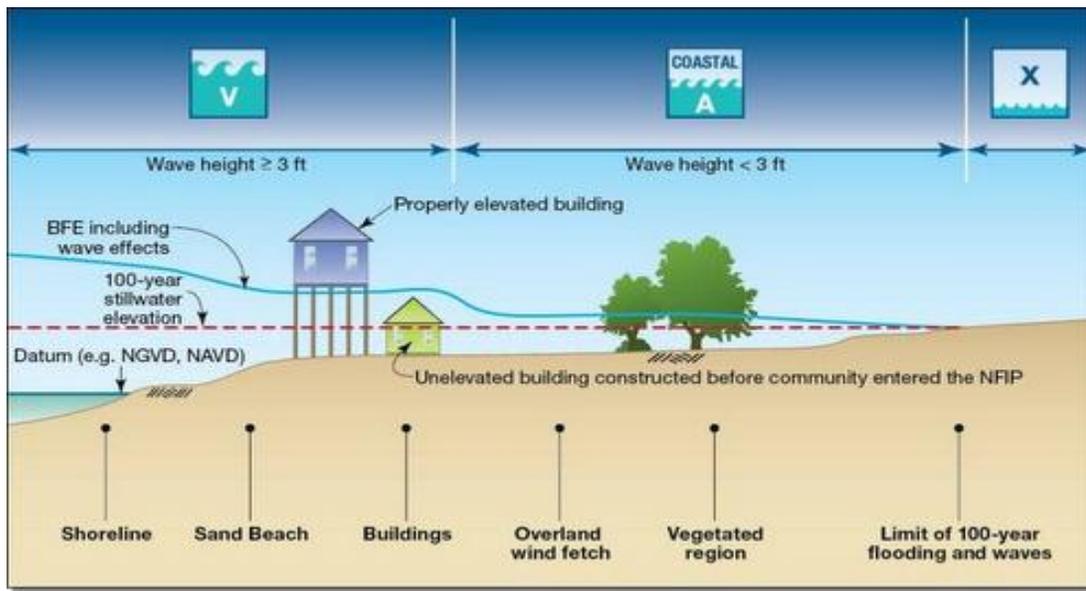


Coastal A Zones

Portions of the SFHA landward of a V zone (i.e., areas where wave heights are computed as less than 3 feet) are mapped as 'A' zones on the FIRM. While the wave forces in coastal A zones are not as severe as those in V zones, the capacity for the damage or destruction of buildings is still present.

Diagram: The Coastal Flood Zone

V zones are portions of the SFHA where wave heights are greater than three feet. These areas are subject to more stringent building requirements than coastal A zones because the risk from coastal flooding is greater. Coastal BFEs take into account both the storm surge 'stillwater' elevation and additional effects from waves.



Limit of Moderate Wave Action

An additional area that may be shown on coastal FIRMs for informational purposes is the Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA). The LiMWA identifies areas that will be affected by waves with a 1.5 foot wave height or greater within the coastal A zone. While FEMA currently does not require special floodplain management standards or flood insurance purchase requirements based on LiMWA delineations, it is likely that properties and structures within the LiMWA will receive substantial damage from wave action during a one-percent-annual-chance flood event. As a result, communities are encouraged to adopt the more stringent building construction standards applicable for V Zones in these areas.

Diagram: The Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA)

The LiMWA is the area within the coastal A zone where wave heights are between 1.5 and 3 feet. These areas will likely be subject to substantial damage during a one-percent-annual chance flood event.

