FEMA FACT SHEET

Flood Insurance: A Small Price to Pay for Peace of Mind

Flooding Can Happen Anywhere at Any Time

- Even if you don't live near water, your home may be at risk of flooding from new developments or changes in weather patterns. In fact, more than 40% of flood insurance claims are from properties outside of the high-risk flood areas. Floods are the nation's most common and costly natural disaster. **Just one inch of water in an average-sized home can cost up to $25,000 in damage.**

- Most federal disaster assistance requires a Presidential Disaster Declaration and comes in the form of low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration that must be repaid–with interest. In 2017, the average disaster assistance grant was less than $9,000, while the **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) paid an average claim amount of more than $90,000.**
- **Most homeowners and renters insurance policies do not cover flood damage.** Only flood insurance will protect your property and belongings after a flood event. Keep in mind, after you purchase a policy, there's typically a 30-day waiting period before it becomes effective.

Helpful Questions When Talking with Your Insurance Company or Agent About Flood Insurance:

- What is my property's flood risk?
- Is flood insurance mandatory for my property?
- Does my community participate in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS)? If so, does my community qualify for a CRS rating discount?
- If my home floods, what is covered?
- What is the difference between a private flood insurance and an NFIP flood insurance policy?
- How much coverage should I purchase for my building and for my contents?
- Is there a difference between insuring my primary residence or my secondary residence?
- Will my policy provide Replacement Cost Value or Actual Cash Value and what's the difference between the two?
- Once I purchase flood insurance, is my policy effective immediately or is there a waiting period?
- What is the term or length of my policy?
- Does my policy automatically renew?

Additional Information:

Tell your insurance carrier or agent you're interested in learning more about flood insurance from the NFIP. The agent who sold you homeowners or renters insurance should be able to help you with a flood insurance policy. For more information, call FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) at 877-336-2627 or visit FloodSmart.gov.

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Learn More at fema.gov