



FEMA

Fact Sheet

## National Flood Insurance Program

### In or Out of the High-Risk Flood Area, Everyone Needs Flood Insurance

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey in 2017, nearly half of all flood insurance claims were for properties located outside high-risk flood zones—for properties that, on flood maps, are shown to be at low -to -moderate flood risk.

#### Did you know?...

- ✓ Floods are the nation's most common and costly natural disaster and cause millions of dollars in damage every year.
- ✓ Homeowners and renters insurance does not typically cover flood damage.
- ✓ Floods can happen anywhere--more than 20 percent of flood claims come from properties outside the high risk flood zone. Check out *The Big Cost of Flooding*, at [www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/132744](http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/132744).
- ✓ If your property is in a low-to-moderate flood risk area, your flood insurance could be much more affordable than you might think.
- ✓ Flood insurance can pay regardless of whether or not there is a Presidential Disaster Declaration, at [www.fema.gov/disaster-declaration-process](http://www.fema.gov/disaster-declaration-process).
- ✓ Most federal disaster assistance comes in the form of low-interest disaster loans from U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and you have to pay them back.
- ✓ A claim against your flood insurance policy could, and often does, provide more funds for recovery than those you could qualify for from FEMA or the U.S. Small Business Administration after a disaster declaration--and you don't have to pay it back.

**No** homeowner or renter can afford not to have flood insurance. Call your insurance agent and buy a policy today. If your community participates in the NFIP, you can buy flood insurance for your property. There's typically a 30-day wait period between when you purchase the policy and when it becomes effective. Discuss this and find questions to ask to ensure you get the coverage you need, at [www.fema.gov/national-flood](http://www.fema.gov/national-flood).

*"FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards." March 2018*