FLOOD FACTS

- In the past 5 years, all 50 states have experienced floods or flash floods.
- Everyone lives in a flood zone.
  - What is a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)?
    - Land areas that are at high risk for flooding are called Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), or floodplains. These areas are indicated on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).
    - In high-risk areas, there is at least a 1 in 4 chance of flooding during a 30-year mortgage.
  - What is a Non-Special Flood Hazard Area (NSFHA)?
    - A Non-Special Flood Hazard Area (NSFHA) is an area that is in a moderate-to-low risk flood zone (Zone X Pre- and Post-FIRM). An NSFHA is not in any immediate danger from flooding caused by overflowing rivers or hard rains.
    - However, it's important to note that structures within a NSFHA are still at risk. It is also recommended since historically nearly one-in-four NFIP flood claims occur in these moderate- to low-risk areas! Get the facts before you decide that your property is not at risk.
- Most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage.
- If you live in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) or high-risk area and have a Federally backed mortgage, your mortgage lender requires you to have flood insurance. (To find your flood risk, fill out the Flood Risk Profile.)
- Just a few inches of water from a flood can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage.
- Flash floods often bring walls of water 10 to 20 feet high.
- A car can easily be carried away by just two feet of floodwater.
- Hurricanes, winter storms and snowmelt are common (but often overlooked) causes of flooding.
- New land development can increase flood risk, especially if the construction changes natural runoff paths.
- Federal disaster assistance is usually a loan that must be paid back with interest. For a $50,000 loan at 4% interest, your monthly payment would be around $240 a month ($2,880 a year) for 30 years. Compare that to a $100,000 flood insurance premium, which is about $400 a year ($33 a month).
- Homes and businesses may qualify for the low-cost Preferred Risk Policy, with premiums starting as low as $129 for a home and its contents and $643 for a commercial building and its contents.
  - $129 residential annual premium provides $20,000 building and $8,000 contents coverage.
  - $643 commercial annual premium provides $50,000 building and $50,000 contents coverage.
- You are eligible to purchase flood insurance as long as your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program.
- In most cases, it takes 30 days after purchase for a policy to take effect, so it's important to buy insurance before the storm approaches and the floodwaters start to rise.
- In a high-risk area, your home is more likely to be damaged by flood than by fire.
- Anyone can be financially vulnerable to floods. People outside of high-risk areas file nearly 25% of NFIP claims and receive one-third of disaster assistance for flooding.
- From 2003 to 2012, total flood insurance claims averaged nearly $4 billion per year.
- When your community participates in the Community Rating System (CRS), you can qualify for an insurance premium discount of up to 45% if you live in a high-risk area and up to 10% in moderate- to low-risk areas.
- Since 1978, the NFIP has paid more than $48.1 billion for flood insurance claims and related costs (as of 7/8/13).
- More than 5.5 million people currently hold flood insurance policies in more than 21,800 communities across the U.S.
- The two most common reimbursement methods for flood claims are: Replacement Cost Value (RCV) and Actual Cash Value (ACV). The RCV is the cost to replace damaged property. It is reimbursable to owners of single-family, primary residences insured to at least 80% of the building's replacement cost.

For more policy and claim statistics, visit **http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program**

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM FloodSmart.gov
The official site of the NFIP