

Missourians Urged to Buy Flood Insurance

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JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – State and federal officials urge Missourians to strongly consider purchasing flood insurance; history shows that on average a flood-related disaster occurs nearly once a year in this state.

Depending on their level of coverage, flood insurance policy holders may receive up to \$250,000 for home damage and up to \$100,000 for contents — far more than FEMA’s assistance for individuals and households after a presidentially-declared disaster. There’s another advantage: flood insurance claims and payouts are not dependent on a disaster declaration. An insurance claim may be submitted anytime a property is flooded.

Statistics underscore concerns about flooding. According to FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program, 90 percent of all presidentially-declared disasters involve flooding. Flood events also affect those living in areas thought relatively safe from flooding. People in areas of low- to moderate-risk file nearly 25 percent of all NFIP claims and receive one third of federal disaster assistance for flooding.

The average cost of a flood policy runs \$700 a year but reducing flood risks or taking mitigation measures such as elevating a structure can lead, in some cases, to lower insurance costs. An insurance agent can provide more guidance on lowering costs.



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The NFIP has received 1,668 claims and paid more than \$47.5 million to Missouri policy holders after this year's spring and summer flooding. Payments continue to be made on claims.

For a complete list of what is covered and not covered by flood insurance policies or for more information on the different types of policies available through the NFIP, visit [floodsmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov) or call your insurance agent today. New flood insurance policies go into effect 30 days after purchase.

Follow recovery updates in Missouri on Twitter [@MOSEMA](https://twitter.com/MOSEMA) and [@FEMARegion7](https://twitter.com/FEMARegion7). Get the latest information at [Missouri's recovery website](#) and [FEMA's disaster webpage](#). For information on applying for an SBA loan, call 800-659-2955 or [email SBA's disaster customer service](#). If you are deaf or hard-of-hearing, call text relay at 800-877-8339.

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