



GEMA

FOR GEORGIA COUNTIES

# Disaster News



FEMA

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## FLOOD INSURANCE AVAILABLE IN MOST COMMUNITIES

ATLANTA - Experience teaches, but only if a person pays attention. Recent storms and flooding in Georgia have underscored the value of a flood insurance policy underwritten by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Most homeowners' insurance policies do not cover flooding. To alleviate the financial devastation caused by flooding, Congress created the NFIP in 1968. The NFIP, overseen by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), enables homeowners, business owners and renters to purchase federally backed flood insurance.

Flood insurance is easy to obtain and is sold by most insurance agents. People do not need to live in a flood plain to buy NFIP insurance.

“Buying flood insurance is the smart thing to do,” said Charley English, State Coordinating Officer for the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. “Flood insurance pays on losses even if a presidential disaster declaration has not been issued.”

Homeowners and business owners are eligible to purchase flood insurance if their community is among the 479 Georgia communities participating in the NFIP. Participating communities agree to adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances to reduce future flood damage. Mortgage lenders may require home buyers to purchase flood insurance if the home is located in a floodplain. To find out if your community participates in the NFIP, go to [www.fema.gov/fema/csb.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/fema/csb.shtm)

“Purchasing both structure and contents flood insurance before a flood occurs is the first and most important way to protect your home and personal property,” said Terry Quarles, Federal Coordinating Officer for FEMA. “There is a 30-day waiting period before a new flood insurance policy becomes effective.” The waiting period is waived if the consumer is obtaining, increasing, extending or renewing a federally- backed loan for the property.

The average premium for a yearly flood insurance policy is around \$450 and may be less for structures located in low to moderate risk flood zones.

(MORE)

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To find an insurance agent who handles flood insurance, visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or call toll-free **1-888-435-6637**.

*FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation, to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the nation from all hazards including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.*

*Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.*

*FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.*

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For more information on Georgia's disaster recovery, visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or [www.gema.ga.gov](http://www.gema.ga.gov) or [www.ready.ga.gov](http://www.ready.ga.gov) or <http://twitter.com/GeorgiaEMA>