



FEMA



NFIP FACTS AND FIGURES

Cover: Risk

- Floods are the #1 natural disaster in the United States
- Just an inch of water can cause costly damage to property
- Everyone is at risk – due to weather systems, land development run-off or regional events
- Homeowners insurance doesn't cover flood damage
- 30 percent of all flood insurance claims are filed in low- to moderate-risk areas
- New construction can increase flood risk, especially if it changes natural runoff paths
- Nearly 5 million Americans are protected with flood insurance but millions more are unaware of their personal risk for property damage – or options for protection

Cover: Impact

- Flood losses in the United States averaged \$2.4 billion per year for the last decade
- The NFIP has paid nearly \$16 billion in flood insurance claims to-date to policyholders during the 2005 hurricane season
- Federal disaster assistance is usually a loan that must be paid back with interest -- and is only available when a disaster has been federally declared
- In the last 52 years, nearly 1000 flood events have been designated as federally declared disasters

Cover: Protection

- Property owners, renters and businesses can purchase flood insurance if their community is among the more than 21,000 communities that participates in the National Flood Insurance Program
- It takes 30 days after purchase for a flood insurance policy to take effect
- The average premium for a yearly flood insurance policy is approximately \$500
- People in a low- to moderate-risk communities may be eligible for the Preferred Risk Policy with flood insurance premiums as low as \$112 a year (including coverage for the property's contents)

For more information about the NFIP or the FloodSmart campaign, contact FEMA's Public Affairs Office at 202-646-4600.