

# Hurricane Season 2008



## FLORIDA: GET PROTECTED. STAY PROTECTED.

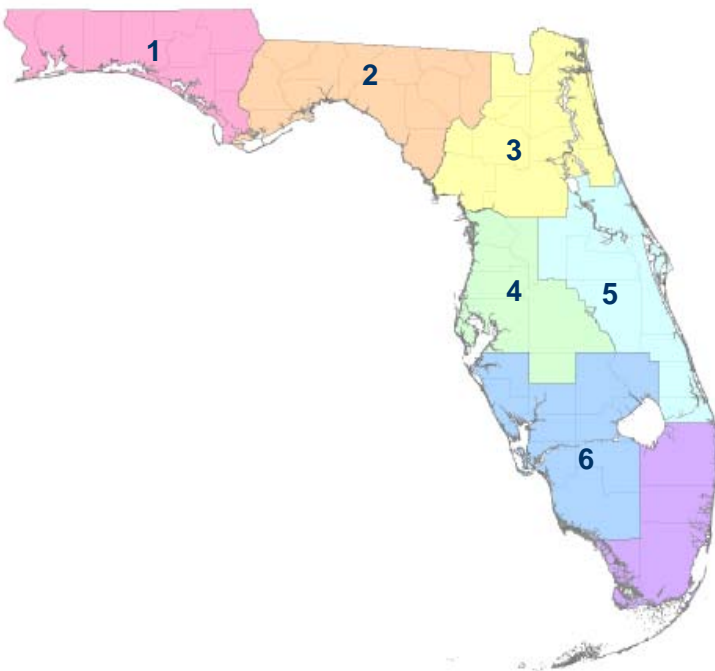
### FLORIDA: AT RISK

Both inland and coastal Florida residents face flooding caused by hurricanes and tropical storm systems every year. Since 2004 alone, Florida has incurred more than \$1.7 billion in flood damage during hurricane season (June-November). Floridians statewide know to act quickly when a hurricane approaches, but flood insurance needs to be part of a proactive, long-term preparedness strategy.

There are more than six million households in Florida, yet two million are currently unprotected by a flood insurance policy and another 856,000 will soon choose whether to renew their policies and stay protected. Florida residents need to know that now is the time to get – and stay – protected.

After a gap in large-scale storms from 2001 to 2004, Hurricanes Charley, Ivan, Frances and Jeanne struck during hurricane season in 2004, costing Florida residents approximately \$40.6 billion in damages. Although insured residents were reimbursed for \$1.1 billion in losses, their uninsured neighbors, family and friends paid \$39.5 billion in recovery costs. Remembering the potential for flood devastation during less active hurricane seasons protected residents who made the simple choice to buy flood insurance or renew their existing policy.

### FLORIDA FLOOD INSURANCE COVERAGE OUTLOOK



REGION*	POLICIES IN FORCE	POLICIES UP FOR RENEWAL DURING HURRICANE SEASON	POLICIES NOT RENEWED IN 2007
1	110,674	42,527	14,079
2	12,042	6,843	1,557
3	89,091	57,632	16,873
4	281,607	124,122	39,245
5	245,053	99,730	32,083
6	398,111	159,548	48,164
7	1,058,938	365,490	166,435

\* Regional map and regional delineation according to county, provided by Florida Division of Emergency Management, GIS Section 1/25/2008

### FLORIDA FLOOD FACTS

(Source: National Flood Insurance Program)

**Flooding costs Florida.** From 1998 through 2008, insured flood losses in Florida totaled nearly \$2.3 billion.

**Floridians know the potential devastation hurricanes and tropical storms can cause.** Since 2004, seven named storms have caused more than \$1.7 billion in insured damages.

**Florida households need to get and stay protected.** There are more than 2 million policies in Florida, yet 66% of households remain uncovered. During the 2008 hurricane season alone, more than 850,000 policies will be up for renewal.





## BE FLOODSMART – REDUCE YOUR RISK

- **Learn your flood risk.** Properties that are not located within high-risk areas can also flood. Find out your flood risk right now by entering your address at **FloodSmart.gov** “**One Step Flood Risk Profile.**” Insurance agents can also help check your risk.
- **Plan for evacuation.** Plan and practice a flood evacuation route, ask someone out of state to be your “family contact” in an emergency and make sure everyone knows the contact's address and phone number.
- **Move important objects and papers to a safe place.** Store your valuables where they can't get damaged.
- **Conduct a thorough home inventory.** Thorough documentation of your belongings will help you file your flood insurance claim. For more information, visit [www.knowyourstuff.org](http://www.knowyourstuff.org).
- **Build an emergency supply kit.** Food, bottled water, first aid supplies, medicines and a battery-operated radio should be ready to go when you are. Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for a disaster supply checklist.
- **Reduce your flood risk through home improvements.** Visit **FloodSmart.gov** to learn ways to lower the risk of sewage backup, electrical problems, basement flooding and other flood-related issues.
- **Purchase a flood insurance policy.** Most homeowners insurance does not cover floods and there is typically a 30-day wait before a policy takes effect. If you have a flood policy, remember: it needs to be renewed each year.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you live in a high-risk area and carry a mortgage from a federally regulated or insured lender, you are required to purchase a flood insurance policy. If your property is located in a low- to moderate- risk area, you may be eligible for a Preferred Risk Policy, which can start at less than \$120 a year.

Visit **FloodSmart.gov** or call **1-800-427-2419** to learn how to prepare for floods and how to purchase a flood insurance policy.