



NFIP/CRS UPDATE

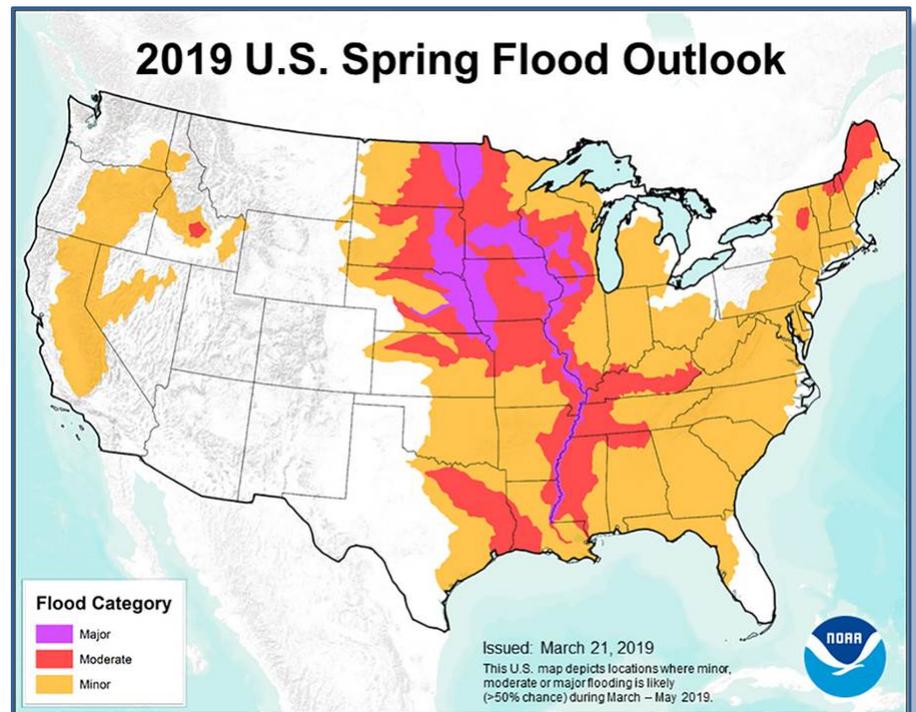
February / March 2019

—More on FEMA’s Moonshot —

Think Again about Flood Insurance

With early, drastic flooding capturing everyone’s attention this spring, communities have an opportunity to emphasize the importance of flood insurance. One message communities can send to their residents is “Think again about flood insurance.” This can encourage people to take another look at what they have that needs protection, get fresh information about their risk and about the coverage available, and/or re-examine their past decisions about flood insurance.

The spring 2019 outlook from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is for an elevated flood risk for two-thirds of the contiguous United States at least until the end of May. The map shows that there is potential for moderate to major flooding in parts of 25 states. There is no better time to emphasize the fact that people need flood insurance now.



Flood Insurance Myths

Often those who do not have flood insurance have failed to purchase a policy because they are laboring under one or more misimpressions about the availability or expense of a policy. One way to turn this around is to confront those “myths”

[continued on next page]

Also in this Issue

The CRS at ASFPM	4	The Scoop on CRS Users Groups	9
Next <i>Coordinator’s Manual</i>	5	Online Resources	11
The 4-1-1 on 310	7	Training Opportunities	11

Think again about Flood Insurance (cont.)

directly with to-the-point information. Here are a few more prevalent misunderstandings about flood insurance and the real scoop about those topics. Your community may find it helpful to use the linked materials to address mistaken beliefs among your residents.

MYTH You can't buy flood insurance right before or during a flood.

The reality is that a flood insurance policy may be purchased at any time, as long as the community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The fact that flooding is taking place or is imminent does not change that. It is true, however, that the coverage usually does not become effective until after a 30-day waiting period after the policy is issued. Any residents who are told that they cannot purchase flood insurance—or that they do not need it—should contact the NFIP call center at 800-427-4661 or visit www.FloodSmart.gov to be referred to a knowledgeable agent. Flood insurance is sold as a separate policy, so even if a person's regular agent doesn't handle flood insurance, it can be obtained from another agent who serves the area.

MYTH Flood insurance is only available for homeowners.

Renters of apartments, houses, and condominiums can get flood insurance. Owners of condominiums, houses, duplexes, and second homes can get flood insurance. Business owners can get flood insurance. Flood insurance is available to virtually anyone in an NFIP-participating community—to protect the structure and/or the contents, and the two coverages are purchased separately.

Renters and owners can get up to \$100,000 coverage for the contents of their home. Businesses can get up to \$500,000 coverage for the contents of their commercial structure.

Up to \$250,000 of coverage for the building structure can be obtained, whether it's an individual house or a condominium. A commercial structure can be insured up to a limit of \$500,000.

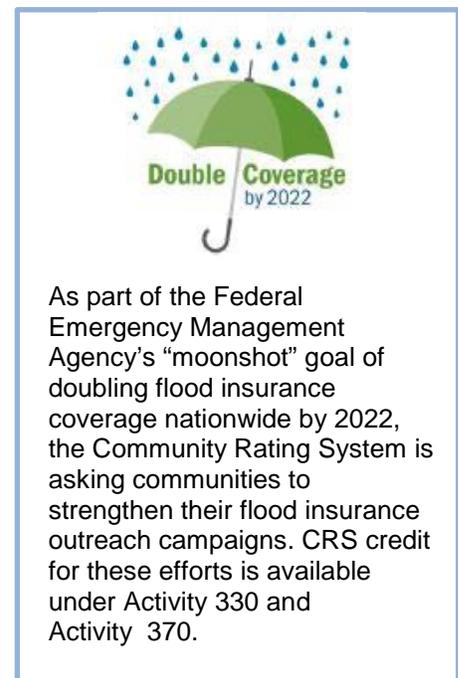
MYTH Flood insurance is too expensive.

Like all insurance, the premium rate depends on the risk factors, including location in terms of the chances, depth, and velocity of flooding; the design of the building's structure, especially the foundation; and how high above the expected flood level the building is sited. The rates also depend on the size and value of the building itself and the amount of coverage selected.

For people in a low-risk zone, the base flood insurance premium can be as low as \$127 a year for \$20,000 in building coverage and \$8,000 worth of contents coverage (fees are additional).

The NFIP offers a maximum of \$250,000 in building coverage and up to \$100,000 for contents. To help determine how much

[continued on next page]



Think again about Flood Insurance (cont.)

coverage is right for a property owner, FloodSmart.gov offers the [Cost of Flooding Tool](#), which can help people understand how expensive the damage can be, even from shallow flooding.

For the maximum (\$250,000) building coverage and the maximum (\$100,000) contents coverage, annual premiums would run about

- \$ 1,800 in a low-to-moderate flood risk area;
- \$ 3,300 in a high-risk flood zone (within the Special Flood Hazard Area); or
- \$ 7,000 in a high-risk coastal area.

An overview of the coverages, and costs of flood insurance—in clear language and with sources of more information—can be found on the [FloodSmart website](#). Communities can also use the [brochure about the preferred risk policy](#) for low-hazard areas.

Sources of Outreach Materials

- Learn about Promoting Flood Insurance (Activity 370) at the CRS webinar April 17th [*see page 11*].
- Check out FEMA’s [Moonshot Outreach Starter Kit](#), the [Regional NFIP Marketing & Outreach Toolkit](#), and the [FloodSmart website](#) and its [Agents page](#). Posted there are many useful examples, templates, photos, videos, and press releases that can be used in your community’s outreach, as well as basic facts to help you dispel these misconceptions about flood insurance.

Stay Tuned

Future *NFIP/CRS Update* newsletters will have more helpful information on promoting flood insurance. The CRS Moonshot Workgroup will be presenting new ways for CRS communities to increase coverage in their communities and thereby help their residents be better protected from damage in future floods. ≡ ≡ ≡

Guidance on that Expired Elevation Certificate Form

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has officially notified communities that the anticipated, revised Elevation Certificate is “pending approval,” and that “the current version of the Elevation Certificate can be used until further notice.” The FEMA Elevation Certificate form expired on November 30, 2018. The form and its instructions, along with updates about when the new form will be available, can be found on the [Elevation Certificate page](#) of FEMA’s website.