



# National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

## Frequently asked questions

### **If I don't have flood insurance and I don't live in a flood plain, why should I consider the NFIP coverage?**

Anyone can buy flood insurance, regardless of whether or not your property is in a special flood hazard area. Flood insurance covers direct losses caused by surface flooding, including a river flowing over its banks, a lake or ocean storm, and local drainage problems. The SR 530 landslide caused the flow of the Stillaguamish River to back up and flood residences that had not flooded before and may continue to impact residences in the area while the flow returns to its channel.

### **Won't my regular homeowner's insurance cover flooding?**

No. The NFIP offers a separate policy that protects your home or business.

### **How much does it cost?**

The average cost of a flood insurance policy is about \$600 annually. Flood insurance reimburses you for all covered building losses up to \$250,000 for residential occupancies and up to \$500,000 for businesses. Building coverage is for the walls, floors, insulation, furnace, and other items permanently attached to the structure. Separate contents coverage is also available up to \$100,000 for residential occupancies and up to \$500,000 for businesses, if the contents are in an insurable building.

### **How do I obtain flood insurance? Do I go through my agent or the NFIP directly?**

NFIP flood insurance is sold through private insurance companies and agents, and is backed by the federal government.

### **Can I just wait to flood and then receive federal disaster assistance?**

You are taking a big risk with your home. Most forms of disaster assistance require a Presidential declaration and these declarations are not awarded in all flooding incidents. On top of that, the most typical form of disaster assistance is a loan that must be repaid with interest. Flood insurance has no payback requirement on the policy that you purchase.

### **Can I buy flood insurance from the NFIP at any time?**

Yes, but be aware that there is usually a 30-day waiting period after premium payment before the policy is effective.

### **Who do I contact if I want to learn more?**

- If you want to purchase NFIP flood insurance, you can call your insurance agent.
- If you want to know more about where your property is in relation to special flood hazard areas, contact Roxanne Pilkenton at 425-388-3311, ext. 2731 or email [Roxanne.Pilkenton@snoco.org](mailto:Roxanne.Pilkenton@snoco.org).
- You can also learn more about the National Flood Insurance Program by visiting these websites:
  - FloodSmart, The Official Site of the NFIP: [www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/](http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/)
  - FEMA's Flood Insurance Information for Property Owners: [www.fema.gov/information-property-owners](http://www.fema.gov/information-property-owners)
  - Snohomish County Surface Water Management, River Flooding Information: [www.snohomishcountywa.gov/2388](http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/2388)

