



SPOTLIGHT

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BUYER ALERT

Your homeowner policy doesn't cover floods

Here's what you should know and what you can do with the memory of recent rains and floods in mind.

As we are well aware from the impact of Irene, floods can happen anytime, anywhere. But what is not as well-known is that homeowner insurance policies do not cover damage caused by rising water...by flooding.

What about federal disaster assistance?

Federal disaster assistance offers loans (with interest payments) to help cover flood damage, not compensation for losses. Less than 10 percent of all weather emergencies in the U.S. are declared disasters.

How can I get coverage for flood damage?

Purchase flood insurance which is underwritten by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), a federal program. It is available for all property

owners who live in a community that participates in the program.

Where can I buy NFIP flood insurance? At our agency.

With one annual premium you can protect your home and its contents from rising water and flooding through one of the private insurance companies that we represent as an independent agent.

What about the cost?

The lower the flood risk in the area where you live, the lower the premium. Also, you have the option of selecting coverage in a range of yearly premium amounts. You may qualify for Preferred Risk Policy (a lower-cost flood insurance policy) that provides contents coverage for under \$200 a year. Homeowners and renters can also buy coverage for contents-only for around \$50 a year.*

Are their limits on how much flood insurance I can buy?

Yes. But some private insurers offer Excess Flood Protection to cover catastrophic loss by flooding.

IMPORTANT NOTE: FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRES A 30-DAY WAITING PERIOD TO TAKE EFFECT. IF INTERESTED, CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION IMMEDIATELY.

*Cost figures and other information for this article provided by the official site of the National Flood Insurance Program: www.floodsmart.gov



Flood Insurance Facts

- Often, flooding is caused not by a river or stream or other body of water overflowing but by a dam or levee failure, melting snow, a water main break, or an overloaded drainage system.

- Only about half of homeowners living in some of the most flood-prone areas of the country buy federal flood insurance according to a recent study from the Rand Corporation, a nonprofit research organization.

- Almost 25 percent of all flood insurance claims come from people who live in low-to-moderate flood zones according to the National Flood Insurance Program Administration. As reported in the AAA Horizons magazine, "while those in low-to-moderate risk areas are not required to buy flood insurance, it's a good idea."

- Compensation for covered losses is guaranteed because the federal government backs NFIP flood insurance.

- Renters can buy flood insurance to cover their personal belongings.

Test Your Insurance I.Q.

Q. Charles, does the National Flood Insurance Plan cover basement improvements such as a game room?

A. No. Flood insurance does not cover finished walls, floors, carpeting, and personal belongings. It does cover your foundation. Also, functional items such as plumbing, furnace, water heater and circuit breakers are covered under your policy's building coverage. Other limited items such as a washer and dryer or a freezer are covered under your policy's contents coverage, which must be purchased in addition to building coverage.

We invite you to submit questions for this regular column. Email your questions to: nzi@nziagency.com.



Behind the Scenes

By Charles Zammito, President

• Earthquakes do happen in N.E.

The recent earthquake with its epicenter in Virginia was felt all the way up the east coast. Mildly, to be sure. But experts in the field say that we are overdue for a major quake. Remember, homeowner insurance policies DO NOT automatically include earthquake coverage. A quake endorsement protects against structural damage and breakage from "shaking." The cost for a house insured for \$300,000 is about \$100 a year.

• Picture IS worth a 1000 words.

Keep a photo or video camera handy in your car and home in case you have an auto accident or home damage. Along with other information, your photos can aid the claims filing process.

• Catastrophic losses suffered

by small businesses from fires, floods, and windstorms result in 44% of them going out of business forever. Major reason? Lack of a business continuity plan, including business interruption insurance, according to a recent study by SCORE in coordination with Hewlett-Packard Development Company. www.score.org. www.hp.come/sbso.

• Had a successful at-fault appeal?

Make sure you notify us. Also, it is important to make sure your insurance carrier has properly recorded the result and reported it to C.L.U.E. (Comprehensive Loss Underwriting Exchange). C.L.U.E. is a private database used to establish driver histories. Incorrect data can plague a driver and inflate his/her auto premiums for years!

You are invited to take a site-seeing tour!



Visit our new website: www.nziagency.com

In addition to information about our home, auto and business products and services, you'll discover more about our partner companies; be able to pay bills online if you are insured by three of those partners: Quincy Mutual, Safety, and Travelers. Our About Us page includes 10 Reasons Why We Are the Best, and background about the agency and Charles Zammito, agency president. With a click, you can report a loss and start the claim process. You'll also find links for instant access to the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles, InControl Advanced Driver Education, FEMA, and others.

Did You Know?

Take steps to prevent water damage in your home this winter

- Stop ice dams before they start by cleaning out gutters. Also purchase a roof rake to remove snow buildup and ice melt pellets especially for your roof.
- Consider installing electric roof cables to melt ice as it forms.
- Turn off water to outside faucets and use an insulated cover on the faucets.
- Avoid frozen pipes by installing heating cables with a thermostat around any pipes close to an outside wall.

THANK YOU FOR REFERRING US TO A FRIEND!

About 60% of our new customers are the result of referrals from loyal clients like you. When you refer someone, ask him or her to mention your name when they contact us. We'd like to thank you personally!

It is understood that the publisher is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting or other professional service. If legal or other expert advice is required, the services of a professional should be sought. Insurance information is general in nature; for specific coverage provisions, review contractual policy provisions.

GOOD NEWS We're voted #1 by local readers

We are pleased to announce that the Zammito Agency is the Community Newspapers Readers Choice as the number one insurance agent in Norwood and the region. Thank you to all of our customers, business associates and friends for your vote of confidence!



PROPER COVERAGE

Made additions to your vehicle? Call us.

We want to make sure that your Theft/Damage coverage is proper. If you have made enhancements such as: a new sound system, a GPS, expensive hub-caps, a snowplow attachment or truck caps, please call us. IMPORTANT: No claim payment can be approved for losses involving these types of enhancements unless they are added to your insurance policy.

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

Yes, we DO sell business insurance

From Main Street stores to artisans to service firms, our Business Owner Programs (BOPs) offer quality coverage and value at highly-competitive costs. We also have special programs for home-operated businesses. *For a description of what we can do for your business, call or email us.*



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