

National Flood Services



News Flash | January 2010

In This Issue:

- [National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\) Extended Through February](#)
- [Florida Online FIRA/CE Class: Now Approved & Available From Your Flood Processing Website](#)
- [Winter Agent Newsletter Now Available On Your Flood Processing Website](#)
- [2010 National Flood Services \(NFS\) Holiday Schedule](#)
- [Preferred Risk Policy Eligibility – article from Florida Associations of Insurance Agents \(FAIA\)](#)
- [In the News: Keeping You Abreast of What is Currently Hitting the Headlines in the World of Flood](#)

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Extended Through February 28, 2010

The NFIP was again extended through February 28, 2010. The extension was part of the Defense Appropriations bill. Click on the following links to read more:

- <http://www.insurancenetworking.com/news/-23857-1.html>
- <http://www.pianet.com/IssuesOfFocus/HotIssues/flood/12-22-09.htm>
- <http://ifawebnews.com/2009/12/21/national-flood-insurance-program-gets-two-month-extension-in-congress/>

Florida Online FIRA/CE Class: Now Approved & Available From Your Flood Processing Website

We are pleased to announce Florida approved our online Flood Insurance Reform Act (FIRA)/Continuing Education (CE) class. Now agents needing FIRA certification or CE credits in Florida for flood insurance may take our online flood class through your flood processing website. *How do agents access the class?* Login and click on "Online Training" located in the left navigation bar, follow the prompts and read the instructions thoroughly.

Please note: To receive credit, the agent must have their own unique username and password to the flood processing website. The username name must be tied to their personal name. The name listed under the username is the name the FIRA/CE credits will be filed under. It is imperative the agent's name is correct and that it is NOT listed under the name of the agency.

Winter Agent Newsletter Now Available on Your Flood Processing Website

Our Winter 2009 Newsletter is now available to download or print from your flood processing website. It's located under RECENT NEWS UPDATES at the bottom. Click on the link under "Winter 2009 Newsletter" for a PDF of this informative seasonal publication. It is an excellent resource for your agents.

The Winter 2009 newsletter articles include:

- New Document Upload Feature
- Spotlight on the Staff – Region 3
- Agent Reminders
- LOMA/LOMR-F
- Additional Coverage
- 2010 Standard Holidays and Website Resources

2010 National Flood Services (NFS)

Holiday Schedule

Below is our 2010 holiday schedule listing the days National Flood Services (NFS) will be closed to observe the holidays.

2010 Standard Holidays

New Year's Day
Memorial Day
Independence Day*
Labor Day
Thanksgiving
Day after Thanksgiving
Christmas Eve*
Christmas Day*

Office Closed

Friday, January 1
Monday, May 31
Monday, July 5
Monday, September 6
Thursday, November 25
Friday, November 26
Thursday, December 23
Friday, December 24

2011 Standard Holidays

New Year's Day*

Office Closed

Friday, December 31, 2010

**Please note: Due to several holidays falling on a weekend, NFS will be closed on the days listed above which happen to be either before or after the actual holiday.*

Preferred Risk Policy Eligibility

Article from Florida Association of Insurance Agents (FAIA)

Written by David Thompson, CPCU

Insurance professionals who sell or service flood insurance are well aware of the benefits of the Preferred Risk Policy (PRP). The PRP offers the policyholder the opportunity to obtain flood coverage at a greatly reduced cost when compared to the Standard Flood Insurance Policy (SFIP). For example, a homeowner can buy a PRP with the maximum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) limits of \$250,000 for the building and \$100,000 for contents for \$348 based on rates in effect in 2008. The same coverage written under the Standard Flood Insurance Policy (SFIP) would cost over \$1,300.

Over the past few years, eligibility for the PRP has expanded, making a lot more policyholders eligible for the savings under the PRP. It's in the best interest of the agency to verify that NFIP policyholders who qualify for the PRP are written on that policy instead of on the SFIP....

To read the entire article, please click on the link:

http://www.faia.com/web/2008/10/preferred_risk_policy_eligibilit.aspx

In the News - National Flood Insurance Program: Keeping You Abreast of What is Currently Hitting the Headlines in the World of Flood

- **"Washington Warns Green Valley Residents about Flood Insurance"** – With less than 25% of buildings in the Green River Valley covered by flood insurance, the state's insurance commissioner urged owners and renters to buy flood coverage ASAP. New flood maps are also due to go into effect in September 2010. <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/west/2009/12/04/105748.htm>
 - Source: *Insurance Journal* – 12/4/09
- **"New Garland County Arkansas Flood Maps to Go Into Effect"** – New flood rate maps will be going into effect on January 20, 2010. With potential changes to property owners' current status, it is an excellent time to sell flood insurance and receive the best premiums before the rate maps go into effect. <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=50061>
 - Source: FEMA.gov press release – 12/8/09

- **“New Anderson County Texas Flood Maps To Go Into Effect”** – On February 3, 2010 new flood rate maps will go into effect in Anderson County Texas. Now is the time to purchase flood insurance before the implementation of the new maps. <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=50062>
 - Source: FEMA.gov press release – 12/8/09
- **“Active 2010 Atlantic hurricane season predicted”** – A Colorado State University group has predicted an above-average hurricane season for 2010 for the Atlantic region. The group’s forecasts are followed closely by investment markets. <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE5B82O420091209>
 - Source: Reuters.com – 12/9/09
- **“FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate Swears In Tony Russell As New Region VI Administrator”** – FEMA’s regional administrators work closely with the states and citizens they represent on behalf of FEMA. The new region VI administrator, Tony Russell, will be headquartered in Denton, TX and cover Louisiana, Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=50085>
 - Source: FEMA.gov press release – 12/16/09
- **“Cedar Falls, Iowa, Expands Flood Insurance Requirements”** – Cedar Falls, Iowa just approved an ordinance requiring more property owners to purchase flood insurance. <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/midwest/2009/12/16/106037.htm>
 - Source: *Insurance Journal* – 12/16/09, from the Associated Press
- **“Report Says Seattle Dam Threatens \$30 Billion Worth of Property”** – According to the Office of the Insurance Commissioner approximately 20% of Green River Valley properties have flood insurance through the NFIP. <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/west/2009/12/18/106095.htm>
 - Source: *Insurance Journal* – 12/18/09
- **“Skagit County Preliminary Flood Maps to be Re-Issued”** – FEMA is due to release another set of preliminary flood maps for Skagit County in Washington State. The original set of flood maps had issues so the maps are being redrawn. Once these maps have been precisely drawn up, they will be released and the public feedback process will be restarted. <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=50129>
 - Source: FEMA.gov press release – 12/23/09
- **“17 More Iowa Homeowners Accept Flood Damage Buyouts”** – Cedar Rapids homeowners are accepting buyouts of their flood damaged properties. FEMA is funding 90% of the project while the state will pay 10%. <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/midwest/2009/12/28/106235.htm>
 - Source: *Insurance Journal* – 12/28/09, from the Associated Press
- **“Levees Beneath Threatened Washington Dam Called Weak”** – Porous and old levees below the Howard Hanson Dam on the Green River were called “unstable” in an article by the Seattle Times. <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/west/2009/12/30/106298.htm>
 - Source: *Insurance Journal* – 12/30/09