

CHAS. LUNSFORD SONS & ASSOCIATES

Insurance Services Since 1870.

HURRICANE SEASON. . . SUMMER THUNDERSTORMS . . . FLOOD BASICS!! WHAT IS A FLOOD?

Issue 4

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A **flood** is an excess of water (or mud) on land that is normally dry. Floods happen when bodies of water overflow or tides rise due to heavy rainfall or thawing of snow. But, you do not have to live near water to be at risk of flooding. A flash flood, which can strike anywhere without warning, occurs when a large volume of rain falls in a short time.

Did you know...

- *Floods and flash floods happen in all 50 states.
- *Everyone lives in a flood zone.
- *Homeowners insurance does **not** cover flood damage
- *It takes 30 days after purchase for a flood policy to

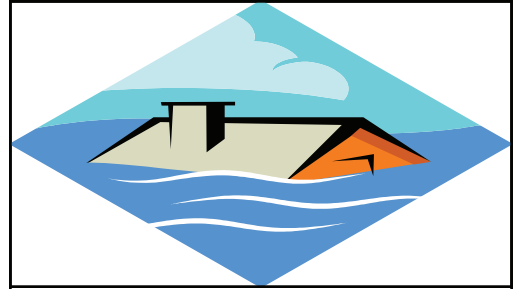
take effect, so it is important to buy insurance before the flood waters begin to rise.

*Federal disaster assistance is usually a loan that must be repaid with interest. For a \$50,000 loan at 4% interest, your monthly payment would be around \$240 or \$2880 a year for 30 years. Compare that to a \$100,000 flood insurance policy with an estimated annual premium of about \$400 or \$33 a month.

*If you live in a low to moderate risk community and are eligible for the Preferred Risk Policy, your flood insurance premium may be as low as \$112 a year.

What to do before a flood occurs...

Besides insuring your property, there are other things you can do



to minimize your potential loss.

- Take photos of all your important possessions. If your home is damaged in a flood, these documents will help you file a flood insurance claim.
- Store important documents and irreplaceable personal objects where they will not be damaged.
- Post important telephone numbers by the phone and teach children to dial 911.
- Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family.

We are pleased to provide you this valuable information to educate you about the risks from flooding. We hope you have found the information helpful and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

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Or 800 777 5773

Fax: 540 344 4096

**Personal Insurance Department
Frances P. Garrett, Vice President**

Personal Insurance Manager

WHAT TO DO DURING A FLOOD. . .

- Listen to a battery-operated radio for the latest storm information.
- If told to evacuate your home, please do so immediately.
- If the waters start to rise inside your home before you have evacuated, retreat to the second floor, the attic or the roof if necessary.
- Avoid walking through floodwaters. As little as six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Never drive through a flooded area. If you come upon a flooded road, turn around and go another way.