



Department of Business Regulation
Insurance Division
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Bldg. 69-2
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

Consumer Alert 2017-2

Know Your Flood Risk

Homeowners, business owners and renters are encouraged to know their flood risk when thinking about purchasing flood insurance and to be reminded that standard insurance policies do not cover flood damage.

Over the past few years Rhode Island has experienced a number of historic flooding events, from the March 2010 floods to Super Storm Sandy in 2012. As the warmer weather approaches, Rhode Island residents should be aware of their flood risk. Even if you do not live in a flood prone area, be mindful that floods can happen anywhere, to anyone, at any time.

The floodplain is broken down into zones. Zone V and Zone A have the highest risk for flooding; however, 25 percent of all flood insurance claims are paid out to policyholders in lower-risk zones outside of Zone A and Zone V. The most important thing you can do is to find out what zone your property is in. Take a minute to look at a floodplain map and identify your zone and your risk. Floodplain maps, also known as FIRMs (flood insurance rate maps), can be found at www.msc.fema.gov. Enter your address in the box on the left side of the screen. You may also access Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency's Floodplain mapping information and tools by clicking [here](#).

Flood insurance policies are most affordable in low- to moderate-risk zones- Shaded X and Unshaded X Zones, which are outside the 100-year floodplain. Homes located within both A and V zones are required to carry flood insurance if purchased through a federal loan or any federally backed interaction such as a line of credit or reverse mortgage. Flood insurance is offered and underwritten by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Several insurance companies in Rhode Island write and service flood policies through the NFIP.

For additional information on what consumers need to know before flood waters rise, please see [Consumer Alert 2011-4](#). Consumers should remember that there is a 30-day waiting period before a flood insurance policy kicks in. Consumers are encouraged to learn what zone they're in, and to fully educate themselves about flood insurance and whether to purchase it. Additional consumer alerts are accessible at www.dbr.ri.gov or by clicking [here](#).

For more information, contact your insurance agent or the NFIP at 1.800.638.6620 or www.floodsmart.gov. Consumers are also welcome to contact the [Rhode Island Insurance Division](#) at 401-462-9520 or email dbr.insurance@dbr.ri.gov for assistance.

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Superintendent of Insurance
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