

## **Nebraskans Urged to Review Flood Insurance Needs**

### *Where It Can Rain, It Can Flood*

*The threat of spring flooding is just around the corner. Since floods can happen anytime, anywhere, and without warning, Nebraskans are urged to review their flood insurance needs.*

### **Prepare for Unplanned Emergencies**

The Department of Insurance encourages Nebraskans to take time to review their insurance needs and be prepared for unplanned emergencies in 2021. According to the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA), approximately 20 percent of flood insurance claims come from outside high-risk flood zones—citing that anywhere it can rain, it can flood.

According to the National Weather Service, the melting of snow has occurred slowly which is very favorable for reducing the flood risk due to snowmelt runoff. However, rises can still be expected on some rivers as meltwater makes its way into river systems. The spring weather pattern will most likely become more active in the weeks ahead, and additional precipitation could have an impact on the flood risk. Nebraska residents are encouraged to review their needs for flood insurance **before** a flood occurs. Keep in mind that just an inch of water in a home could cause more than \$25,000 in damages. If flooding occurs and you do not have flood insurance, you could experience financial ruin.

### **Allow 30 Days for a Flood Policy to Take Effect**

It is important to note that a flood insurance policy takes 30 days to take effect. The policy will not cover a loss in progress. Flood damage is not typically covered through most homeowners' and renters' standard insurance policies. Homeowners and renters are urged to review their insurance needs with their agents now and discuss whether it is necessary to have flood insurance coverage.

### **Flood Insurance is a Separate Coverage**

Flood insurance is a separate coverage you can purchase. If you consider a private flood insurance policy, be sure to shop around and compare coverage and premiums before you buy. If your insurance agent can't write a private flood insurance policy, he or she may be able to refer you to another licensed agent. Flood insurance can be purchased through an agent or insurer participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which FEMA manages.

If eligible for NFIP coverage, the NFIP provides coverage of up to \$250,000 for the structure of a home and up to \$100,000 for personal possessions. NFIP policies have a 30-day waiting period unless a policy is bought at the same time as a newly purchased home. If your community doesn't participate in the NFIP, the NFIP Referral Call Center at 1-800-427-4661 may be able to assist you.

### **Additional Information**

Additional insurance information on all types of insurance coverage may be found on the Department's website at [doi.nebraska.gov](http://doi.nebraska.gov). If you have insurance-related concerns, call the Department's toll-free consumer hotline at 1-877-564-7323.