

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT

Thursday, March 20, 2008

...2008 National Flood Safety Awareness Week...

The National Weather Service continues its annual Flood Safety Awareness Week campaign today through Friday, March 21st.

The theme for today is flood insurance and flood risk. Everyone lives in a flood zone, with their risk of flooding ranging from low to moderate to high. Floods are four times more likely to occur than a fire. Low hazard flood areas are also at risk, as 25 to 35 percent of all claims each year are paid for property located outside high risk areas.

You may think that you are covered for flood damage, but most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage, and just a few inches of water in a home can cause thousands of dollars in damage.

Homeowners, renters, and business owners are eligible to purchase flood insurance as long as their community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. This is a federal program enabling property owners to purchase insurance protection against losses from flooding. It takes 30 days after purchase for a policy to take effect, so it is important to buy insurance before floodwaters start to rise.

More information about the National Flood Insurance Program can be found at WWW.FLOODSMART.GOV.

Additional information about Flood Safety Awareness Week is available at WWW.FLOODSAFETY.NOAA.GOV.