

# The KEELSON Review

Insurance News for Individuals and Families

## Flood Insurance Facts and Statistics

### Facts - Did you know?

- Floods and flash floods happen in all 50 states.
- Everyone lives in a flood zone.
- Most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage.
- If you live in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) or high risk area and have a federally backed mortgage, your mortgage lender requires you to have flood insurance.
- Just an inch of water can cause costly damage to your property.
- Flash floods often bring walls of water 10 to 20 feet high.
- A car can easily be carried away by just two feet of floodwater.
- Hurricanes, winter storms and snow melt are common (but often overlooked) causes of flooding.
- New land development can increase flood risk, especially if the construction changes natural runoff paths.
- Federal disaster assistance is usually a loan that must be paid back with interest. For a \$50,000 loan at 4% interest, your monthly payment would be around \$240 **a month** (\$2,880 a year) for 30 years. Compare that to a \$100,000 flood insurance premium, which is about \$500 **a year** (\$33 a month).
- If you live in a low to moderate risk area and are eligible for the Preferred Risk Policy, your flood insurance premium may be as low as \$112 a year, including coverage for your property's contents.
- You are eligible to purchase flood insurance as long as your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program.
- It takes 30 days after purchase for a policy to take effect, so it's important to buy insurance before the floodwaters start to rise.

### Statistics – Did you know.....

- Your home has a 26% chance of being damaged by a flood during the course of a 30-year mortgage, compared to a 9% chance of fire.
- Last year, one-third of all claims paid by the NFIP were for policies in low-risk communities.
- The average paid claim for the last ten years (1997 - 2006) was \$46,168.
- When your community participates in the Community Rating System (CRS), you can qualify for an insurance premium discount of up to 45%.
- The NFIP paid more than \$16.5 billion in flood insurance claims to policyholders during the 2005 hurricane season (as of August 2007).
- Over 5.5 million people currently hold flood insurance policies in more than 20,300 communities across the U.S.
- The NFIP paid nearly \$16 billion in flood insurance claims after Hurricane Katrina.  
Hurricane Katrina is the largest flood disaster in our nation's history and was exacerbated by Rita and Wilma with combined flood insured losses totaling more than \$16.5 billion
- The NFIP paid approximately \$2 billion in flood insurance claims after the 2004/2005 hurricane seasons.



*"You are successful the moment you start moving toward a worthwhile good."*  
Charles Carlson

### Fun Facts

- \* At 8,000 feet deep Hells Canyon is the deepest river gorge in North America.
- \* The Willamette River was discovered in 1792.
- \* The nation's most photographed lighthouse is the Heceta Head Lighthouse located in Lane County.
- \* The hazelnut is Oregon's official state nut. Oregon is the only state that has an official state nut. The hazelnut is also known as the filbert. Dorris Ranch in Springfield became the first commercial filbert orchard in the state.
- \* Oregon's state flag pictures a beaver on its reverse side. It is the only state flag to carry two separate designs.
- \* Oregon has more ghost towns than any other state.

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## Summer Travel Tips

### Outside the US:

*Preparation:* as soon as you know you will be traveling outside the US, you should contact your doctor and find out what, if any, vaccinations are required or advised for the area you are traveling to.

*Passport:* take original and a copy of your passport. Keep original with you while traveling to destination. Lock it in safe and carry the copy while enjoying the location of your trip.

*Medicines:* pack in original packaging and include a prescription for any that you 'must have' incase they are lost or stolen. If you wear glasses and you can not be without them, take a 2nd pair or a prescription for a new pair incase yours are broken or lost.

*Common Sense Safety:* Leave the diamond home and wear simple jewelry and avoid being a target of thieves. Split the "pocket cash" into two or more pockets. ID and credit cards should be in a "pick" proof pocket. Ladies, a purse is ok, but carry the important stuff in pocket or leave it in the safe. If your purse is 'snatched' you can let it go without fear of valuables going with it!

*Have a Safe and Fun  
Summer!*

## Long Term Disability Income Insurance

*Financial Protection for You & Your Family*

**A serious illness or injury can harm more than your health-it can have an impact on your ability to work and meet your family's living expenses.**

**Long-term disability income insurance helps you pay living expenses while you are unable to work.**

### Employee Benefits

Disability benefits from your employer may include workers' compensation insurance for work-related injuries. For short-term illness, your employer may provide sick leave, short-term disability insurance, or both. For a longer illness, lasting six months or more, your employer may provide group long-term disability income insurance.

Group long-term disability coverage through employers replaces part of your salary if you are disabled and unable to work. A typical policy replaces at least half of your salary up to a specific maximum benefit, such as \$5,000 per month. Long-term benefits begin when short-term disability benefits stop. Benefits from group long-term disability policies generally continue until either age 65 or your retirement age under Social Security, or until you are able to return to work. In some policies, benefits may also be available for a period of time after you return to work.

### Tips on Purchasing

*Examine how the policy defines a disability.* Some policies pay benefits if you are unable to complete the duties of *any* occupation for which you are reasonably qualified by training, experience, and education. Others pay benefits if you are unable to perform the major duties of your **own** occupation. Some policies also pay benefits if you become ill or injured and are unable to earn a specified percentage of your income.

*Ask for outlines of coverage* so you can compare the features of several policies. Make sure you fully understand any policy you are considering-a policy that does not provide the protection you need is not a good buy. Features to look for in a policy include:

- Definition of disability (*own* or *any* occupation; earnings test)
- Benefit amount
- Elimination period (waiting period before benefits begin)
- Length of benefit period
- Benefits for partial disability
- Replacement of lost income
- Return-to-work programs
- Recurrent disability (relapse provision)
- Cost-of-living adjustments or right to purchase additional coverage
- Mental health/substance abuse provisions
- Noncancellable or guaranteed renewable
- Exclusions or other coverage limitations