

FLOOD FACTS

A newsletter for agents of American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida / American Reliable Insurance Company.



ASSURANT
Specialty
Property

March 2006

Claims Information

American Bankers Insurance
Company of Florida
American Reliable Insurance
Company

Flood Claim Center
8655 E Via De Ventura
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Phone
1-800-245-1505

Fax
1-800-224-4170

Hours of operation:
Mon-Fri 5:30am-5:00pm PST

Claim status, please call:
1-800-245-1505

**If you need help to submit a
claim via AccessFlood, call
the Flood Service Center at
1-800-423-4403.**

2006 National Flood Conference May 7-10, 2006

Join us in Philadelphia!

[Wyndham Philadelphia at Franklin Plaza](#)

**17th & Race Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-448-2000**

- **[Click Here to Register Online!](#)**
- **[Registration Brochure](#)** -- 497 KB, **[txt version](#)** -- 9KB
- **EXHIBITORS:** The Expo Brochure will be available starting March 1st. New this year...2 complimentary registrations with each booth!!
- **[Agenda at a Glance](#)**

If you need additional conference information contact Catherine King at CatherineR.King@associates.dhs.gov

We would love to see you at the Conference. If you plan to attend please send an e-mail to the Flood.Service.Center@Assurant.com

May 1, 2006 Rate Changes

Here are a few highlights:

- Premiums will increase an average of 4.1% for policies written or renewed on or after May 1, 2006.
- Preferred Risk Policy rates will remain the same.
- Post-FIRM V Zones – Premiums will increase 6%.
- Pre-FIRM V Zones – Premiums will increase 9%.

Contact Information

**New Business Applications,
Rollovers,
Endorsements,
Cancellations,
Other Correspondence and
Overnight Mail**

American Bankers Insurance Company
of Florida

American Reliable Insurance Company
Flood Service Center

8655 E Via De Ventura
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Flood Service Center

Phone

1-800-423-4403

Fax

480-483-1675

480-607-0739

E-mail

flood.service.center@assurant.com

Hours of Operation

Mon-Fri 5:30am-4:30pm MST

Lockbox Address for Renewal Payments Only

American Bankers Insurance Company
of Florida

American Reliable Insurance Company
PO Box 8437

Philadelphia, PA 19101

2006 Holiday Schedule – Flood Service Center

Our office will be closed on the
following days:

May 29- Memorial Day

July 4 – Independence Day

September 4 – Labor Day

November 23 – Thanksgiving

November 24 – Day after
Thanksgiving

December 25 – Christmas Day

NFIP Manual Update

The May 2006 NFIP Manual updates will be posted on the FEMA website in early March. We will put a link on *AccessFlood* directing you to the FEMA site for your convenience once the updates are posted. The following are a few of the "highlights" that will be in the May 2006 NFIP Manual:

* Elevation Certificate: The "new" elevation certificate with instructions will be available. Please note the new elevation certificate form will become mandatory for certifications issued on or after January 1, 2007.

* Condominium Associations: Clarification on how to correctly rate Residential Condominium Building Association Policy (RCBAP) in the course of construction.

- Converting a Preferred Risk Policy (PRP) to a Standard Flood Insurance Policy (SFIP): Clarification on converting a PRP, due to ineligibility, to a SFIP.

New Business Applications

When submitting new business applications, please make sure the agent's signature and date are on the application as this is an NFIP requirement. Also, **Preferred Risk Applications require the Flood Zone Determination** be attached as proof of the zone. For the Standard application, **Part 2 of the application** must be filled out when an elevation certificate is required.

We encourage you to call the Flood Service Center when you have questions regarding the completion of information on either of these applications.

Renewal Payment Options

Hurricane season is once again fast approaching. Please encourage your insureds to promptly pay their renewal invoices to ensure peace of mind. Renewal premium must be *received* within 30 days from the expiration date to renew the policy without a lapse in coverage. For your not-so prompt clients, remember that premiums can be paid by credit card (MasterCard, Visa, American Express & Diners Club) by way of a quick call to the Flood Service Center at (800) 423-4403. Other options are to mail the premium by certified mail within 30 days of the policy expiration or by utilizing third-party delivery services such as FedEx, UPS, or other courier services that provide proof of mailing.

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AccessFlood Web Training

The Flood Service Center is committed to providing the best training programs to our agents. Have you signed up to have an AccessFlood training class? It won't take more than 1.5 hours. The class is conducted via Web training. Call to schedule a training session and let us help you write more FLOOD business.

AccessFlood: This class is approximately 1 hour (no CE Credits available) and is conducted via Live Meeting. Live Meeting is a web training tool that allows you to actively participate during the training class. To schedule a class, or if you have any questions, please contact: Jayne Stotts at 800-423-4403 x346 or by email, Jayne.Stotts@Assurant.com

Continuing Education: The Fundamentals of Flood Insurance class is 4 hours (4 CE Credits) in most states. We also have an Advanced Flood Insurance class which is also 4 hours (4 CE Credits). For more information on our CE Classes, please contact, Patty Latshaw @ 800-423-4403 x520 or by email, Patricia.Latshaw@Assurant.com.

Community Search

The map panel number and suffix are required prior to printing an application on Access Flood. The map and panel number can be found on the elevation certificate or on the Flood Zone Determination. If you do not have either of these documents go to View/Update click on Community Search and enter the community number to verify the map panel number and suffix.

PRP Eligibility

The NFIP Manual states that a building is not eligible for the Preferred Risk Program if it has had:

- 2 flood insurance claim payments, each more than \$1000; or
- 3 or more flood insurance claim payments regardless of amount; or
- 2 Federal flood disaster relief payments (including loans and grants), each more than \$1000; or
- 3 Federal flood disaster relief payments (including loans and grants), regardless of amount; or
- 1 flood insurance claim payment and 1 Federal flood disaster relief payment (including loans and grants), each more than \$1,000.

Per verbal verification from NFIP any combination of the above loss payments (including grants or loans) can be paid for any single event without losing eligibility. Should there be multiple events the building would then become ineligible for coverage.