

# 50 Years of the NFIP

(1968–2018)

From the rivers of the Pacific Northwest to the beaches of the Gulf Coast, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) helps protect Americans against the financial hardships of flooding. The NFIP has built a proud legacy of helping people before, during, and after flood disasters in 10 regions across the United States.



## We address the risks of flooding in three key ways:

### Risk Mapping

We identify flood hazards by mapping riverine and coastal areas. To date, we've mapped 1.1 million miles—that's 100 percent of the nation's populated areas.

### Mitigation

We assist local communities by supporting floodplain management efforts that reduce the built environment's exposure to floodwaters. This saves the nation more than \$1.6 billion each year in reduced flood losses.

### Flood Insurance

We protect more than 5 million policyholders across 10 regions and 22,000 communities from the financial losses flooding can bring.

## We are charting a bold course over the next 50 years—and beyond.

Our goal is to double the number of properties covered by flood insurance and quadruple the amount invested in mitigation.

To reach these goals, we're reducing complexity, updating our offerings, improving the claims process, and increasing transparency. And above all, we'll continue to put customers first in everything we do.



## Since 1968, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has used flood insurance to empower Americans to protect the lives they've built.

### 1968

The National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 launches the NFIP with two primary goals: reducing future flood damage and protecting property owners.

### 1973

The Flood Insurance Protection Act of 1973 requires the purchase of flood insurance for some homeowners in high-risk flood zones.

### 1979

Executive Order 12127 officially makes the NFIP part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

### 1989

After making landfall in South Carolina, Hurricane Hugo causes more than \$375 million in NFIP claims damage.

### 1993

The Midwest Floods cause more than \$270 million in NFIP claims damage.

### 1995

Spring flooding in Louisiana causes more than \$585 million in NFIP claims damage.

### 2003

The NFIP digitizes its flood mapping process, modernizing how the program represents flood risk.

### 2004

The Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 eliminates incentives to rebuild on properties that repeatedly flood, increases transparency of the claims process, and establishes a flood insurance training requirement for insurance professionals.

### 2005

Hurricane Katrina becomes the most expensive hurricane in American history. In just one year, NFIP claims damage exceeds \$17 billion.

### 2012

The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 authorizes the national mapping program and implements rate changes to increase the NFIP's fiscal soundness.

Hurricane Sandy causes more than \$8 billion in NFIP claims damage.

### 2014

The Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 restores grandfathering and places limits on flood insurance rate increases, ushering in a new customer-centric era at the NFIP.

### 2017

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria result in more than \$6.3 billion in NFIP claims damage.

### 2018

FEMA announces a future-focused strategic plan to build a national culture of preparedness and close the insurance gap.



FEMA



For more information about the NFIP, visit [FloodSmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov) or call **1-800-427-4661**.

