

Media Advisory

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October Flood Insurance Rate Changes

Flood insurance premiums will be changing October 1, 2014. These premium rates will be the same or lower than October, 2013 rates. These changes are a result of the passage of Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordably Act of 2014 (HFIAA). Our country's leaders have wrestled to offer financial protection from flood losses to property owners through a national insurance program while working at the same time to bring FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) out of significant debt. Rate hikes that were implemented as a result of 2012 legislation with the Biggert-Waters Act were meant to make the NFIP more financially sound, but were also considered by some not to be affordable. Hence, HFIAA was supported and passed. HFIAA notes that with only few exceptions, a flood insurance policy cannot increase by more than 18% annually. The exceptions include older non-primary residences.

There are currently 31 companies and countless agents in Montana that sell flood insurance through the NFIP. Officials with the Montana DNRC Floodplain Program encourage flood insurance policy holders to talk with their local insurance agent about rate changes and other aspects of HFIAA that may affect them.

More detailed information regarding HFIAA is available on the Montana DNRC website: <http://www.mtfloodplain.mt.gov> and by visiting "Flood Insurance".

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