Are You Financially Prepared For Flooding?

Flooding caused by natural disasters is both common and costly; just a few inches of water can cause tens of thousands of dollars in property damage. Flooding can happen anywhere, at any time – even to properties that are not near water or in areas not usually prone to flooding. In fact, between 2015 and 2019, more than 40% of all National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) flood claims came from outside of the high-risk flood areas.

Nearly every home in North Carolina has the potential for flood damage; however, typical home insurance policies do not cover flood losses. Fortunately, your Credit Union can help you protect yourself from flood related financial hardship through a flood insurance policy. This type of policy can provide coverage for flood losses resulting from heavy and prolonged rainstorms, hurricanes, melting snow, or changes to land from new construction.

You should consider a flood insurance policy because:

- 99% of U.S. counties have been impacted by a flood event between 1996 and 2019²
- Federal disaster assistance is only available if the President declares a disaster
- Most federal disaster assistance comes in the form of U.S. Small Business Administration loans, which must be paid back with interest, or Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster grants, which are often much less than what is needed to recover²
- Federal disaster assistance programs have strict eligibility requirements and many North Carolinians may not qualify
- A NFIP flood policy may be surprisingly affordable for homeowners in low-to-moderate risk areas.

Do not wait until a storm is approaching to purchase flood insurance as most flood insurance policies have a 30-day waiting period.

Contact SECU Member Insurance Services at 866.937.7328 or insurance@ncsecu.org for more information about how insurance can help protect you against unexpected losses.

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1 The NFIP was established by Congress as part of Federal Emergency Management Agency

2 www.fema.gov

Insurance products are not guaranteed by, or an obligation of, any credit union and are not insured by NCUA. Insurance Representatives are licensed to sell in North Carolina only.
Revisit Your Financial Plan Regularly

Financial planning is an ongoing process and it is important to revisit your plan regularly to help ensure you are on track to meet your financial goals. When reviewing your finances, remember to include investments, retirement income strategy, and life insurance coverage – key parts of any financial plan.

A Credit Union Investment Services (CUIS) Investment Representative can help you prioritize your financial goals while also evaluating your investments and retirement income strategy. CUIS Investment Representatives will help determine if you are on track to retire by your desired date or if you should make adjustments to your current retirement income strategy. An Investment Representative can also help you re-evaluate your needs if you have recently had a major medical expense or want to assess your life insurance coverage. Investment Representatives will provide you with a full review of all these areas and offer recommendations if an adjustment to your strategy is needed.

CUIS recommends reviewing your financial situation yearly and after major life events that can cause emotional or financial strain on a household, such as retirement or the death of a loved one. Other circumstances such as the need to start taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) from your IRA may result in the need to modify your strategy. Additionally, CUIS Investment Representatives can help you update your beneficiaries and/or trusted contact. Each year, CUIS sends a letter to account owners identifying how closely your current asset allocation matches our recommended allocation. These letters suggest you review your risk preferences and invite you to discuss your account with your local CUIS Investment Representative. If you would like to review your investments, retirement income strategy, and/or life insurance coverage, contact your local branch to schedule an appointment with a CUIS Investment Representative.

Did You Know?

SECU is committed to helping our members meet their estate planning needs. Estate planning allows you to determine who will receive your assets when you pass away, as well as who can act on your behalf if you cannot make decisions for yourself.

As a member, you can speak with a local Trust Representative to discuss your estate planning needs, which may include the following:
- Will
- Durable Power of Attorney
- Health Care Power of Attorney and Living Will
- HIPAA Authorization

For more information, please contact your local branch and ask to speak with a Trust Representative.

Trust Services offered through Members Trust Company, a federal thrift regulated by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. Trust products are not Credit Union deposits, are not insured by the NCUA or any other federal government agency, are not obligations of or guaranteed by the Credit Union, Members Trust Company or any affiliated entity, and involve investment risks, including the possible loss of principal. The material above is for educational purposes only and is not intended to provide legal or tax advice regarding your situation. For legal or tax advice, please consult your attorney and/or tax professional.