

Floods and Flash Floods
March 2007

~~Facts:~~ Unfortunately, many homeowners do not find out until it is too late that their homeowners' policies do not cover flooding. Contact your insurance company or agent to buy flood insurance. It takes 30 days for flood insurance to take effect.

Fiction: You cannot buy flood insurance if your property has been flooded.

Facts: You are still eligible to purchase flood insurance after your home, apartment, or business has been flooded, provided your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Any community may join the NFIP. Check with your local emergency management office for more information.

Fiction: Larger vehicles, such as SUVs and pickup trucks, are safe to drive through floodwater.

Facts: Two feet (0.6 meters) of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pickup trucks.

Fiction: Water stored in bathtubs and sinks is a good source of drinking water if flooding interrupts or contaminates the public water supply.

Facts: Over time, lead can leach from the glaze in bathtubs and sinks into water stored in them. Water stored in bathtubs and sinks should never be used for drinking or for bathing young children. You can use water stored in bathtubs and sinks for tasks such as flushing the toilet or washing the floor or clothing.