

NEWS RELEASE

From: The Washington County Board of Commissioners

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Federal Flood Insurance Now Available in Unincorporated Areas of Washington County, Georgia

Washington, D.C. – Washington County has joined over 21,000 communities nationwide that are allowed to purchase federally backed flood insurance. This availability follows the community's adoption and enforcement of ordinances to reduce flood losses and acceptance by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Unincorporated areas of Washington County is now a participant in the NFIP effective on May 22, 2014. Residents who live in unincorporated areas of Washington County will be able to purchase flood insurance up to the limits under the Regular Phase of the program. However, there is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance coverage goes into effect. For single-family dwellings, the building coverage limit is \$250,000, and the contents coverage limit is \$100,000. Renters can also protect their belongings by purchasing contents coverage. For commercial properties, the building and contents coverage limits are both \$500,000.

Lenders must require borrowers whose properties are located in a designated flood hazard area to purchase flood insurance as a condition of receiving a federally backed mortgage loan in accordance with the Federal Disaster Protection Act of 1973.

The NFIP is implemented through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. There are over 5.5 million flood insurance policies in more than 21,000 participating communities nationwide.