



FEMA

W-07009

February 6, 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: Write Your Own (WYO) Principal Coordinators
and the NFIP Servicing Agent

FROM: WYO Clearinghouse

SUBJECT: Revised SRL Notification Letters

Attached are samples of three revised notification letters for WYO Companies and the NFIP Servicing Agent to send to policyholders, agents, and lenders for properties that meet Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) criteria. The letters have been updated to include the insured's name, property address, and policy number at the top of Page 1.

It is important that WYO Companies and the NFIP Servicing Agent begin using the revised letters as soon as possible. This will help agents and lenders identify their customers upon receiving these letters.

These new notification letters must be used for SRL-eligible policies that renew on or after January 1, 2007. Samples of the letters will be reproduced in the May 1, 2007, revisions to the NFIP *Flood Insurance Manual*.

If you have any questions, please contact your WYO Business Analyst.

Attachments

cc: Vendors, IBHS, FIPNC, Government Technical Representative

Suggested Routing: Data Processing, Marketing, Underwriting



FEMA

IMPORTANT FLOOD INSURANCE POLICY INFORMATION

Insured's Name:

Property Address:

Policy Number:

Dear Agent:

As you may be aware, your client's property, which is covered by flood insurance, has experienced repetitive flood losses under FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This letter is to inform you that your client's property meets the criteria for a new subset of repetitive loss structures: insured properties with a high frequency of losses or a high value of claims. These properties are designated Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) properties.

Congress recognized that SRL properties represent the greatest risk of sustaining repeated flood losses and, through the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 (FIRA 2004), made it a top priority to reduce the number of SRL properties nationwide. As of March 2006, FEMA has identified approximately 8,300 properties that meet the standard for SRL. The loss characteristics of an SRL property must meet one of the following criteria based on paid flood losses since 1978, regardless of ownership:

- (1) Four or more separate claim payments of more than \$5,000 each (building and/or contents payments); or
- (2) Two or more separate claim payments (building payments only) where the total of the payments exceeds the current market value of the property.

In either case, two of the claim payments must have occurred within 10 years of each other. If there are multiple losses at the same location within 10 days of each other, they are counted as one loss, with the payment amounts added collectively.

The strategy for reducing the number of SRL properties is twofold: First, the NFIP has centralized the processing of all flood insurance policies of SRL properties in order for FEMA to obtain additional underwriting information, verify loss information, and collect information about the flood risk to the SRL properties. Second, FEMA is implementing a new mitigation grant program authorized by FIRA 2004 to mitigate SRL properties. You need to be aware of the following:

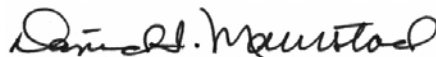
- The Write Your Own (WYO) Insurance Companies that sell and service flood insurance under the NFIP will assign flood insurance policies for SRL properties, upon renewal, to a centralized processing center operated by the NFIP's Servicing Agent. This center is the Special Direct Facility (SDF).

- As a result, your client's policy will not be processed by the chosen WYO Company or by the traditional NFIP Direct Program. You will, however, continue to be the agent of record throughout the process. While the policy remains in the SDF, you will receive the same 15 percent commission that the NFIP Direct agents are given.
- Approximately 45 days prior to the renewal date of the policy, your client will receive a premium bill from the NFIP Servicing Agent. **This bill is the only bill that should be paid by your client.**
- For the time being, the SDF will be the only source for NFIP flood insurance coverage for your client's property. As always, the full premium amount and any related fees should be paid by the date indicated. The policy sent to your client will meet all the requirements of any mortgage company to the same extent as the current policy.
- You should encourage your client to continue to contact you directly for any service needs on the policy because you will remain the agent of record.
- The NFIP provides a procedure for your client to follow if he or she believes that FEMA has incorrectly included his or her insured property on its list of SRL properties.

The new mitigation grant program authorized by FIRA 2004 may provide Federal grant funds to pay for up to 75 percent (up to 90 percent if certain state mitigation floodplain requirements are met) of the cost of eligible mitigation activities, such as elevating your client's NFIP-insured structure. Mitigated properties may qualify for reduced flood insurance rates. You should encourage your client to obtain additional information and refer them to the appropriate local floodplain manager or state hazard mitigation official.

FEMA's goal is to reduce the devastating effects of repetitive flood losses. If you have questions about this letter and the SRL procedures, please contact the NFIP Help Center by telephone at the toll-free number 1-866-395-7496.

Sincerely,



David I. Maurstad
Director
Mitigation Division



FEMA

IMPORTANT FLOOD INSURANCE POLICY INFORMATION

Insured's Name:

Property Address:

Policy Number:

Dear Lender:

As you may be aware, your client's property, which is covered by flood insurance, has experienced repetitive flood losses under FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This letter is to inform you that your client's property meets the criteria for a new subset of repetitive loss structures: insured properties with a high frequency of losses or a high value of claims. These properties are designated Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) properties.

Congress recognized that SRL properties represent the greatest risk of sustaining repeated flood losses and, through the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 (FIRA 2004), made it a top priority to reduce the number of SRL properties nationwide. As of March 2006, FEMA has identified approximately 8,300 properties that meet the standard for SRL. The loss characteristics of an SRL property must meet one of the following criteria based on paid flood losses since 1978, regardless of ownership:

- (1) Four or more separate claim payments of more than \$5,000 each (building and/or contents payments); or
- (2) Two or more separate claim payments (building payments only) where the total of the payments exceeds the current market value of the property.

In either case, two of the claim payments must have occurred within 10 years of each other. If there are multiple losses at the same location within 10 days of each other, they are counted as one loss, with the payment amounts added collectively.

The strategy for reducing the number of SRL properties is twofold: First, the NFIP has centralized the processing of all flood insurance policies of SRL properties in order for FEMA to obtain additional underwriting information, verify loss information, and collect information about the flood risk to the SRL properties. Second, FEMA is implementing a new mitigation grant program authorized by FIRA 2004 to mitigate SRL properties. You need to be aware of the following:

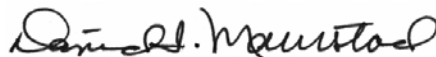
- The Write Your Own (WYO) Insurance Companies that sell and service flood insurance under the NFIP will assign flood insurance policies for SRL properties, upon renewal, to a centralized processing center operated by the NFIP's Servicing Agent. This center is the Special Direct Facility (SDF).

- As a result, your client's policy will not be processed by the chosen WYO Company or by the traditional NFIP Direct Program.
- Approximately 45 days prior to the renewal date of the policy, your client will receive a premium bill from the NFIP Servicing Agent. **This bill is the only bill that should be paid by your client.**
- For the time being, the SDF will be the only source for NFIP flood insurance coverage for your client's property. As always, the full premium amount and any related fees should be paid by the date indicated. The policy sent to your client will meet all the requirements of any mortgage company to the same extent as the current policy.
- The NFIP provides a procedure for your client to follow if he or she believes that FEMA has incorrectly included his or her insured property on its list of SRL properties.

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David I. Maurstad
Director
Mitigation Division



FEMA

IMPORTANT FLOOD INSURANCE POLICY INFORMATION

Insured's Name:

Property Address:

Policy Number:

Dear Policyholder:

As you may be aware, your property, which is covered by flood insurance, has experienced repetitive flood losses under FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This letter is to inform you that your property meets the criteria for a new subset of repetitive loss structures: insured properties with a high frequency of losses or a high value of claims. These properties are designated Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) properties.

Congress recognized that SRL properties represent the greatest risk of sustaining repeated flood losses and, through the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 (FIRA 2004), made it a top priority to reduce the number of SRL properties nationwide. As of March 2006, FEMA has identified approximately 8,300 properties that meet the standard for SRL. The loss characteristics of an SRL property must meet one of the following criteria based on paid flood losses since 1978, regardless of ownership:

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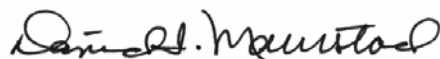
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- The NFIP provides a procedure for you to follow if you believe that FEMA has incorrectly included your insured property on its list of SRL properties.

The new mitigation grant program authorized by FIRA 2004 may provide Federal grant funds to pay for up to 75 percent (up to 90 percent if certain state mitigation floodplain requirements are met) of the cost of eligible mitigation activities, such as elevating your NFIP-insured structure. Mitigated properties may qualify for reduced flood insurance rates. To obtain additional information, please contact your local floodplain manager or state hazard mitigation official.

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