

Manage Your Future Risk

If your home or business was damaged or destroyed by Sandy, you face major decisions about your property. Do you repair? Do you rebuild? Do you relocate?

The decisions you make now can help provide a safer, stronger future for you and your family. If you decide to repair or rebuild, here are some points to consider:

- The risk you faced yesterday might not be the same risk you face today or in the future.
- By rebuilding higher, you can reduce — or perhaps avoid — future flood loss and reduce the impact on your finances.
- The financial consequences of not having flood insurance coverage could be devastating if another flood occurs.

Before you build, consult your local government officials to determine the mandatory elevations for your home or building.

BASE FLOOD ELEVATION (BFE) — The elevation shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for high-risk flood zones (“A” and “V” zones) indicates the water surface elevation resulting from a flood that has a 1 percent chance of equaling or exceeding that level in any given year.

Reduce Your Risk, Reduce Your Premium

A primary way to reduce or avoid future flood losses is to raise your building above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). As the graphic below shows, you could reduce your flood insurance premium by 85 percent or more — and save thousands of dollars over the life of your home or business. It is important to understand the long-term costs and benefits when considering your options for repairing, rebuilding, or relocating.

Insurance Considerations:

- How elevating your home or business can help reduce your rates
- Future premium increases for all homes and businesses
- Options for insuring your building and its contents
- Changes in rates for secondary homes
- Other circumstances that could increase your rates

Building Considerations:

- Meeting building code requirements and current best practices
- Revised Flood Insurance Rate Maps and advisory flood risk products
- Hazard mitigation grant programs
- Other grant programs and loans to help rebuild or acquire your home or business

If you rebuild to pre-flood conditions, your flood insurance premium could increase dramatically in the future.

Under the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, You Could Save More than \$90,000 over 10 Years if You Build 3 Feet above Base Flood Elevation*



*\$250,000 building coverage only (does not include contents), AE (high to moderate risk) zone, single-family, one-story structure without a basement at: 4 feet below Base Flood Elevation (BFE); at BFE; and at 3 feet above BFE. (Rating per FEMA flood insurance manual, October 1, 2012). The illustration above is based on a standard National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) deductible.