
2026 Hurricane Season Preparedness Report

Are Southeast Homeowners Ready?

A 7-State Analysis of Insurance Coverage, Building Codes,
Flood Exposure, and Mitigation Readiness

Mississippi • Alabama • Louisiana • Florida • Tennessee • North Carolina • Wyoming

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Executive Summary

Homeowners Insurance Premiums by State (2026 Estimates)

State	Avg. Annual Premium (2026)	2-Year Change	vs. National Avg. (\$3,057)
Florida	\$8,500	+12%	+178%
Louisiana	\$4,560	+13%	+49%
Mississippi	\$3,180	-25%	+4%
Alabama	\$2,950	+6%	-4%
Tennessee	\$2,680	+8%	-12%
North Carolina	\$2,210	-28%	-28%
Wyoming	\$2,320	+5%	-24%

Flood Insurance Coverage Gap by State

90% of natural disasters involve flooding, yet only 4% of homeowners carry flood insurance. Standard homeowners policies exclude flood damage entirely.

State	NFIP Policy Penetration	Coverage Gap	Risk Rating 2.0 Premium Impact	Private Flood Available?
Louisiana	20.9%	High	+50-100%	Limited
Florida	17.9%	High	+50-100%	Yes — growing
Mississippi	~5%	Very High	+102%	Very Limited
Alabama	~4%	Very High	+50-80%	Limited
North Carolina	~6%	High	+50-75%	Moderate
Tennessee	~2%	Extreme	+60-90%	Limited
Wyoming	~1%	Low	+40-60%	Yes (34% private)

Wind Mitigation Savings Opportunities

Mitigation Upgrade	Typical Cost	Annual Savings	Grant States
Hurricane straps/clips	\$1,000-\$3,000	\$100-\$400/yr	FL, MS, NC
Impact windows/shutters	\$3,000-\$15,000	\$200-\$600/yr	FL, NC

Upgraded roof deck	\$1,500–\$5,000	\$150–\$500/yr	FL, MS, NC
Secondary water barrier	\$2,000–\$6,000	\$100–\$300/yr	FL, MS
Wind mitigation inspection	~\$100	Unlocks all discounts	—

Methodology

This report aggregates data from multiple authoritative sources including NOAA, FEMA, the Insurance Information Institute (III), the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), Bankrate, Insurify, NerdWallet, and state departments of insurance.

The Hurricane Preparedness Index (HPI) weights five categories equally at 20 points each: (1) homeowners insurance coverage rate, (2) flood/NFIP participation rate, (3) building code enforcement strength, (4) state-sponsored mitigation programs, and (5) historical loss resilience. Scores are normalized on a 0–100 scale.

Data Sources

- NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information — Billion-Dollar Disasters (climate.gov)
- FEMA National Flood Insurance Program — Risk Rating 2.0 State Profiles (fema.gov)
- Insurance Information Institute — Hurricane Facts & Statistics (iii.org)
- IBHS — Rating the States: Building Code Adoption & Enforcement (ibhs.org)