

NATURAL & MANMADE CAUSES OF FLOODING

Floods occur when a river bursts its banks if it is carrying so much water that it cannot be confined to its usual course. Here are the common physical & human causes:

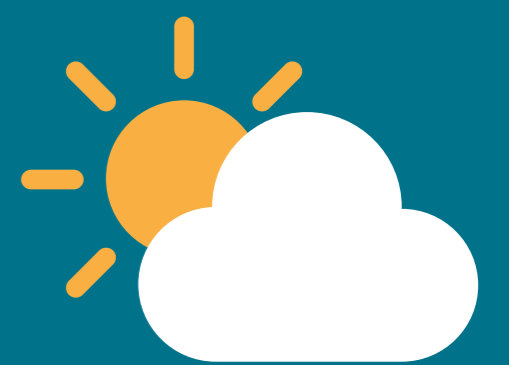


RAINFALL

Intensive precipitation or long periods of rainfall.

WEATHER

Weather conditions prior to rainfall (very wet, saturated soils or compacted dry soil).



SNOWMELT

Surface run-off produced from melting snow can cause flooding.

STEEP SLOPES

Steep slopes reduce the amount of infiltration of water into the ground. This water can then flow quickly down to rivers as overland flow.



IMPERMEABLE ROCK

Less permeable surfaces lead to infiltration excess overland flow.

URBANISATION

Impermeable surfaces results in an increase in the volume & rate of run-off.



DEFORESTATION

Deforestation means a loss of vegetation holding down the soil, which acts as a sponge by absorbing rainwater.