

TYPES OF FLOODING

Riverine Flooding

In Riverine flooding, relatively high water levels extend over the natural or artificial banks of a stream or river. The nature of Riverine flooding can vary significantly in terms of cause, timing and depth between different locations. Coastal rivers with short, steep headwaters often have floods that rise and recede quickly. Inland floods with low gradients, have floods that move slowly down the river, sometimes lasting for several months.

Flash Flooding

Flash flooding occurs when soil absorption, runoff or drainage cannot adequately disperse intense rainfall, and is usually caused by slow-moving thunderstorms. Flash floods are generally defined as developing in six hours or less, from rainfall to the onset of flooding.

Dam Failure

Although dam failures are rare, their effects can be significant. In Queensland, dam safety is monitored, and warning arrangements are in place to warn downstream residents of potential dam failure threats. Should dam failure occur, significant downstream flooding can involve potentially swift flowing water and amounts of debris.

Storm Surge

Storm surge occurs, when sea levels are elevated above the usual tidal limit, due to the action of intense low pressure systems over the open ocean. The low pressure causes sea levels to rise, as there is less air pressing down on the sea. Combined with gale force onshore winds, this can lead to flooding of low-lying coastal land.

