

# Flood Information

A flood is when the water level rises and covers land, which is usually dry. Low-lying areas near rivers and coasts are the most likely places experience flooding. Floods can be started by natural events, such as storms, prolonged rains, earthquakes, and even volcanic eruptions. Sometimes a flood can be the result of a human influence as well, such as a dam overflowing or water pipes bursting.

There are 3 different types of floods: slow onset floods, fast onset floods and flash floods. Slow onset floods are normally created by prolonged heavy rain. This long period of rain usually allows for plenty of warning time to prepare or evacuate areas, which will be affected by large amounts of water.

Fast onset floods occur when excessive rain or storm action happens in mountain headwaters of rivers. This can result in fast-moving floodwaters, which give little early warning to initial areas downstream.

Flash flooding is sudden fast moving floodwaters, which occur during storms when creeks and drains overflow with a sudden downpour. Dry river and creek beds in the outback also flood during heavy seasonal rains and storms.

## Flood Related Terms

**Floodplain:** Low-lying land around rivers. Normally very fertile and sought after for farming.

**Headwaters:** Mountain sources of rivers.

**Levee:** Artificial embankment used to hold or direct water.

