

TYPES OF FLOODING

As shown below, there are different types of flooding that you could be at risk from. Reporting a flood to the correct agency/authority who are responsible for managing the risk, enables the cause to be investigated.

1. RIVER FLOODING

Report to: the Environment Agency



River flooding, also known as fluvial flooding, occurs when the capacity of a rivers channel is exceeded as a result of intense or sustained rainfall across the catchment.

2. GROUNDWATER FLOODING

Report to: the Lead Local Flood Authority



Groundwater flooding occurs when the water table rises up to the surface during a prolonged wet period. Low lying areas, areas near aquifers and properties with cellars or basements are more likely to experience groundwater flooding.

3. SURFACE WATER FLOODING

Report to: the Lead Local Flood Authority



Surface water flooding occurs when the volume of rainfall is unable to drain away through the drainage systems or soak into the land and instead flows over land. Blocked drains and sewers can increase the risk of surface water flooding as the water has nowhere to go.

4. COASTAL FLOODING

Report to: the Environment Agency



Simply put, a coastal flood is when the coast is flooded by the sea. The most common cause of coastal flooding in the UK is storm surges in conjunction with high tides, where the storm wind creates higher than normal waves.

5. SEWER FLOODING

Report to: the Water Company or Internal Drainage Board (IDB)



Most sewer flooding incidents are the result of overloaded sewers following heavy rainfall, or due to blockages caused by misuse of the sewer system such as flushing unsuitable items down the toilet.

6. RESERVOIR FLOODING

Report to: the Environment Agency



Reservoir flooding can be similar to river and surface water flooding if the water escapes slowly. However, in the unlikely event of the dam wall failing, a large amount of water could escape. It could happen with little or no warning and you may need to evacuate immediately.

7. CANAL FLOODING

Report to: The Canal and River Trust



Canal flooding occurs when the level of water in the canal is too high and overtops. Canal flooding is rare, but even with the best controls in place there can sometimes be too much water to manage.

Image: Matt Fascione / SK5908 : Birstall Lock during heavy flooding / CC BY-SA 2.0