

Types of flooding

Understanding the different types of flooding can help you to better understand the flood risk in your area. Reporting a flood event to the authority who are responsible for managing the risk helps the issue to be investigated promptly.

Surface water flooding

Surface water flooding (also known as pluvial) occurs when rainfall cannot drain away through drainage systems or the land, and flows over land instead. It can occur when ground is saturated.

Report to the
Lead Local
Flood
Authority

River flooding

River flooding (also known as fluvial) occurs when the capacity of a watercourse is exceeded, usually following intense or prolonged rainfall across the catchment area.

Report to the
Environment
Agency

Groundwater flooding

Groundwater flooding occurs when the water table rises to the surface following prolonged rainfall. Risk of groundwater can be dependent on the geology of the area.

Report to the
Lead Local
Flood
Authority

Sewer flooding

Sewer flooding is the result of sewage systems being overwhelmed, either by intense rainfall, rising groundwater or blockages in the waste water system. It is also known as contaminated flooding.

Report to the
local sewerage
company

Coastal flooding

Coastal flooding occurs when areas are flooded by the sea. This is due to high tides over-topping the land and can be significantly exacerbated by storm surges.

Report to the
Environment
Agency

Hampshire County Council is the
Lead Local Flood Authority in
Hampshire. You can contact us via
fwm@hants.gov.uk or 01962 846730



Hampshire
County Council



Flooding: advice for the public

Advice on:

- planning for flooding before it happens
- what to do during a flood
- recovering and cleaning up after a flood



Top tips for staying safe during floods:

1. Think about flooding before it happens. Sign up for free flood warnings and create a personal flood plan.
2. Try to avoid contact with flood water. Do not drive through flood water and do not let children play in flood water.
3. Feeling distressed after a flood is normal. Support from family and friends is important during the recovery process.
4. Do not use petrol or diesel generators indoors to dry out your home. The exhaust gases contain carbon monoxide, which can kill.
5. When cleaning up after a flood, wear rubber gloves, boots and eye protection, and wash hands afterwards.

Floodline: 0345 988 1188

NHS '111' for non-urgent health concerns

Food Standards Agency **020 7276 8829** for food safety concerns