



Hazard Factsheet: Flooding



**Auckland
Emergency
Management**

During wet weather, stormwater naturally flows overland to the lowest point. When the stormwater network reaches capacity after heavy rain, or there is a blockage, greater volumes of water flow overland and may cause flooding.

The geography of Tāmaki Makaurau means that most flooding is flash flooding which occurs rapidly after intense rainfall.

Floods are dangerous when:

- water is very deep or travelling fast

- floodwaters have risen quickly
- floodwater contains debris (such as trees or building materials)
- floodwater is contaminated by raw wastewater or other biological contaminants.

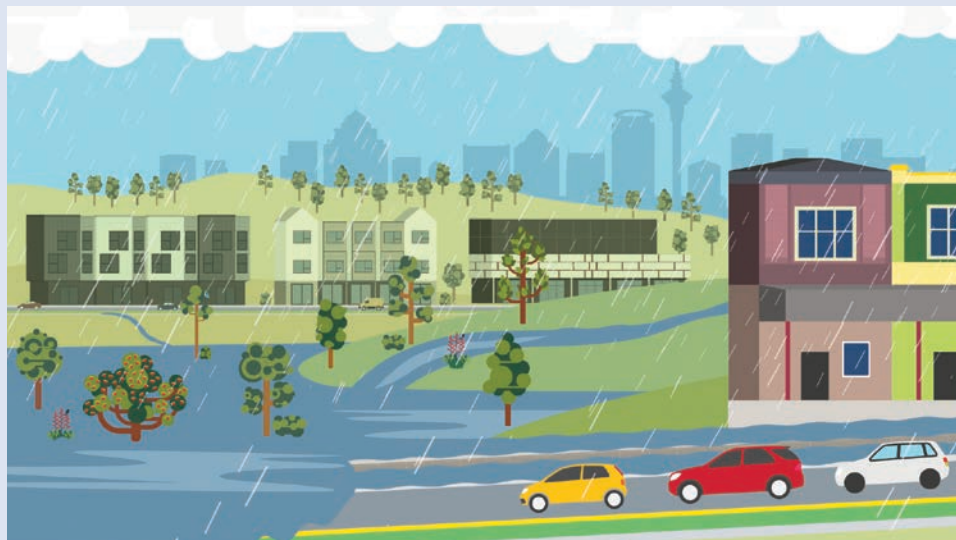
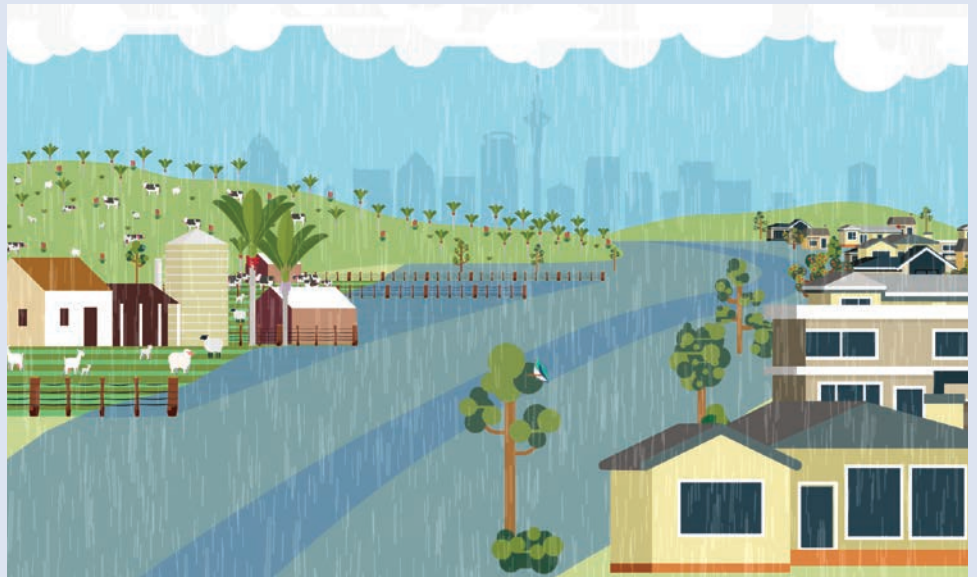


**Go to Auckland Council
Flood Viewer to see
impacts near you**



What is a flood plain?

Flood plains are areas predicted to be covered by flood water during heavy rain. They occur in low-lying areas and next to streams and rivers, including where streams were historically piped.

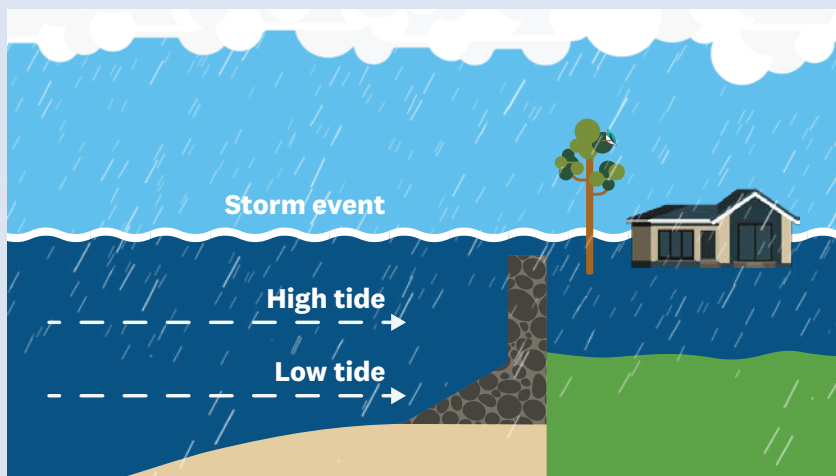
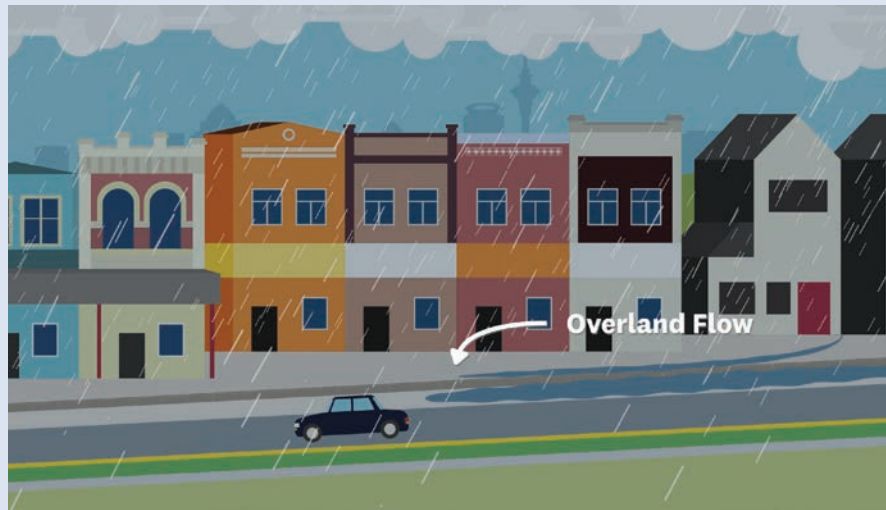


What is a flood-prone area?

Flood prone areas are low-lying areas where water can become trapped and collect during heavy rain, especially if the stormwater outlet reaches capacity. They can occur naturally or be created by changes to the land.

What is an overland flow path?

An overland flow path is the natural course water takes across the land. During heavy rain an overland flow path can become a temporary, fast-flowing stream.



What is coastal inundation and storm surge?

These occur when normally dry, low-lying land is flooded by the sea. Coastal inundation is more likely during storms as the sea level at the coast rises due to strong winds, lower air pressure, heavy rain, and larger waves. High tides can cause flood waters to encroach further inland.

Coastal inundation and storm surge can cause scouring and erosion of landforms. Tāmaki Makaurau's coastal cliffs are especially susceptible to erosion by both coastal inundation and severe storms. This in turn can lead to landslides.

During a flood

- Keep away from flood waters.
- Do not put yourself at risk to take photos or videos of the flood.
- If water is coming into your where/home, turn off the electricity at the mains. Before you turn the power back on, get an electrician to check it is safe to before doing so.
- If you have been evacuated, it may not be safe to return to your where/home when the floodwaters have receded. Listen to the emergency services and Auckland Council and don't return to your where/home until they tell you it is safe to do so.
- Always assume that flood water is contaminated. Flood water may also be electrically charged from damaged electricity lines.
- If you come into contact with flood water, thoroughly clean hands with anti-bacterial soap

or hand sanitiser and wash any clothes or property with hot water, detergent and a household disinfectant bleach solution. See Te Whatu Ora's guidance on 'Cleaning up safely after a flood':

arphs.health.nz/assets/Uploads/Resources/Healthy-environments/Flooding/Flood-advice_-_cleaning-up-ARPHS.pdf

- **Never try to drive through flood waters.**
- If your vehicle stalls while driving near flood water, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.

To report flooding, call Auckland Council on **(09) 301 0101**.

If flooding is on a highway or motorway, call the NZ Transport Agency | Waka Kotahi on **(09) 969 9800**.