

# NATURAL & MANMADE CAUSES OF FLOODING

**Floods occur when a river bursts its banks if it is carrying so much water that it cannot be confined to its usual course. Here are the common physical & human causes:**



## RAINFALL

Intensive precipitation or long periods of rainfall.

## WEATHER

Weather conditions prior to rainfall (very wet, saturated soils or compacted dry soil).



## SNOWMELT

Surface run-off produced from melting snow can cause flooding.

## STEEP SLOPES

Steep slopes reduce the amount of infiltration of water into the ground. This water can then flow quickly down to rivers as overland flow.



## IMPERMEABLE ROCK

Less permeable surfaces lead to infiltration excess overland flow.

## URBANISATION

Impermeable surfaces results in an increase in the volume & rate of run-off.



## DEFORESTATION

Deforestation means a loss of vegetation holding down the soil, which acts as a sponge by absorbing rainwater.