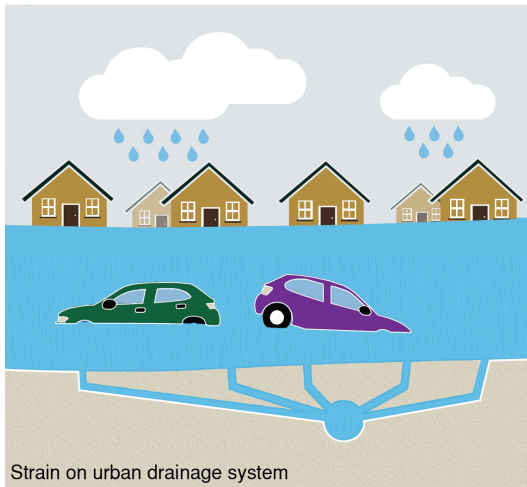


Types of Floods and Their Impact on Louisiana Communities

Flooding is the most frequent and costly natural disaster worldwide, causing billions in damage each year. In Louisiana, heavy rain, powerful rivers and frequent hurricanes raise the risk of flooding.

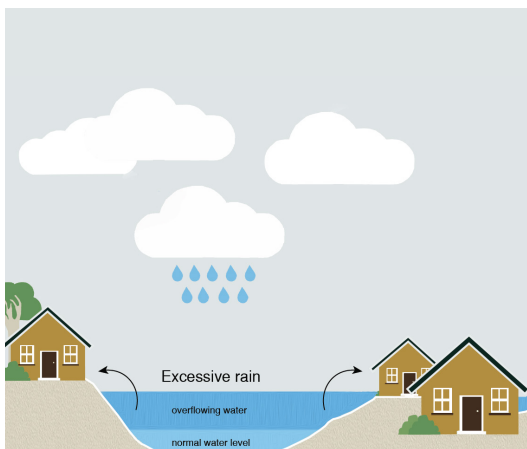
Homes and communities across the state face threats from three major types of flooding: pluvial (flash flooding), fluvial (river flooding) and coastal flooding, each bringing unique challenges and potential damage. Understanding these risks is the first step toward protecting your property and making informed decisions about flood resilience.



PLUVIAL FLOODING

Pluvial flooding occurs when rain falls faster than drainage systems can handle. Without proper drainage, water accumulates, and flooding will occur, causing significant damage to property. While many think flooding only occurs near large bodies of water, pluvial flooding can occur anywhere.

Areas that lack proper drainage or are overdeveloped are at a higher risk of experiencing this sort of flooding, but it can occur anywhere that experiences heavy rainfall. Because this sort of flooding occurs relatively quickly and without advanced warning, it can be difficult to prepare for.

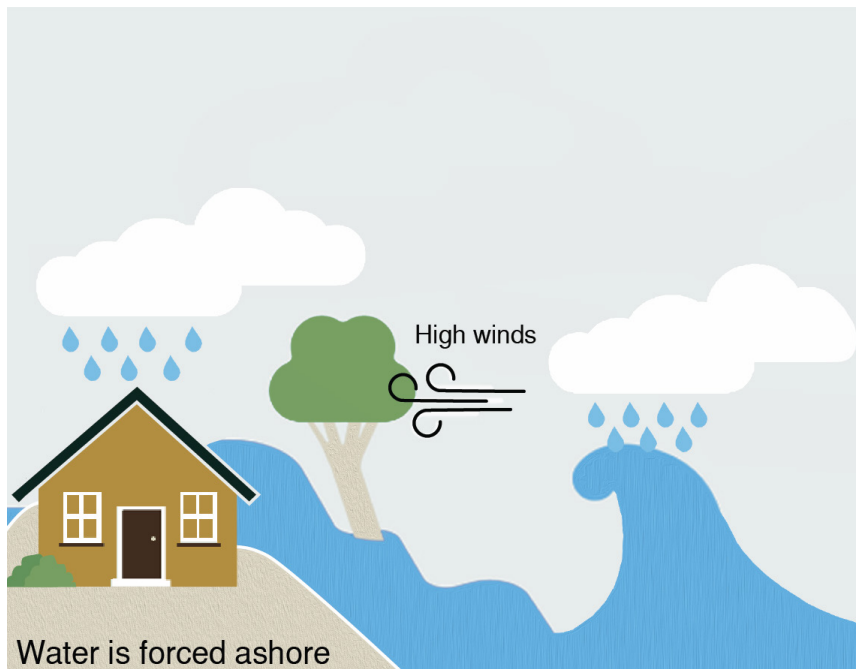


FLUVIAL FLOODING

Fluvial flooding is caused by excess rain causing a river to rise higher than its normal level and flood nearby properties. Fluvial flooding can also happen around smaller streams and bayous, especially when the soil around the body of water is too saturated to absorb additional rain.

Fluvial flooding in larger rivers can also impact properties farther away as the excess water drains into smaller rivers, bayous and streams, leading to flooding in other areas. Levees and other barriers are designed to protect properties from fluvial barriers near larger bodies of water.

Graphics by LaHouse



COASTAL FLOODING

Coastal flooding or storm surge is most common during severe weather events like hurricanes or other types of cyclones. During severe weather, wind that occurs during high tide can cause large waves to reach the shore and flood coastal properties. Several factors, like hurricane strength, wind speed and water levels, can impact the severity of coastal flooding, but many communities have protective measures in place to reduce the damage done by coastal floods.

Graphics by LaHouse

Understanding the different types of flooding and their impacts is crucial for protecting your property in Louisiana. By recognizing these risks and taking appropriate measures, you can enhance your flood resilience and minimize potential damage.

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