

FLOOD-WISE: UNDERSTANDING THE RISK

Cape Town has cold, wet winters. Areas that are dry in summer may become flooded in winter and this may cause misery for many people. Informal settlements are often located in low-lying, wetland-type areas which have a high risk of flooding.

Rivers and estuaries: where rain raises the water level in rivers, estuaries, lakes and also in wetlands.



Ponds: where rain lies on the surface of the ground for a long time in poorly drained, low-lying areas.

Seepage: where a high water table (perennial water under the surface) results in water rising above ground level.

Surface run-off: caused by rainwater running down surfaces that do not absorb water easily, such as tarred roads or mountain slopes.

Leaking: when rainwater enters poorly constructed buildings that have not been properly waterproofed.

Emergency contact numbers:  or  021 480 7700

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT



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