



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Schweizerischer Versicherungsverband
Association Suisse d'Assurances
Associazione Svizzera d'Assicurazioni
Swiss Insurance Association



VKG Vereinigung Kantonalen
Gebäudeversicherungen
AECA Association des établissements
cantonaux d'assurance

Factsheet

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Surface runoff risk map

The new map shows where danger from surface runoff exists. It covers the whole of Switzerland, both populated and unpopulated areas, and is available free of cost online at www.map.geo.admin.ch. The map was produced jointly by the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, the Swiss Insurance Association SIA and the Cantonal Building Insurers Association VKG.

What is surface runoff?

Surface runoff is rainwater which does not seep into the ground, particularly when precipitation is heavy, and runs over open ground where it can cause damage. The term flooding, in contrast, is used when rivers and lakes burst their banks. Surface runoff causes up to 50% of the flood damage and its occurrence has increased over recent years (recent examples: Zofingen (Aargau) 8.7.2017, Frauenfeld (Thurgau) 9.6.2018, Lausanne (Vaud) 11.6.2018). As the climate becomes warmer, more frequent and intense precipitation occurs and therefore more surface runoff can be expected. The risk map helps adaptation to climate change and these phenomena.

What does the Swiss surface runoff risk map show?

The map shows which regions of Switzerland are at risk from surface runoff and how deep they may be under water. Different shades indicate how high the water may rise: pale lilac: < 0.1 m, lilac: 0.1 m – 0.25 m, dark lilac: ≥0.25 m. The map also shows the anticipated flow paths of the water. It covers the whole of Switzerland, both populated and unpopulated areas.

What is its practical use?

Around two thirds of the buildings in Switzerland are potentially affected by surface runoff. The new map therefore has great practical value. Firstly, for professionals such as architects, developers, planners, authorities and emergency response services.

