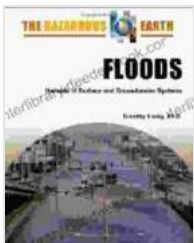


The Hazardous Earth: Hazards of Surface and Groundwater Systems

Surface and groundwater systems are essential for life on Earth. They provide us with drinking water, irrigation water, and transportation routes. They also support a wide variety of ecosystems, from wetlands to forests. However, these systems can also be hazardous. From flooding and droughts to contamination and pollution, there are a number of ways that surface and groundwater systems can pose a threat to human health and safety.



Floods: Hazards of Surface and Groundwater Systems

(The Hazardous Earth) by Timothy M. Kusky

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 4051 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 144 pages



Flooding

Flooding is one of the most common and devastating natural hazards. It can occur when rivers and streams overflow their banks, when snow melts rapidly, or when heavy rains fall. Flooding can cause widespread damage to property and infrastructure, and it can also lead to loss of life. In the

United States, flooding is the second leading cause of weather-related deaths.

There are a number of factors that can contribute to flooding, including:

- Heavy rainfall
- Snowmelt
- Dam failures
- Levee breaches
- Coastal storms

Flooding can have a devastating impact on communities. It can damage homes and businesses, destroy crops, and contaminate drinking water. Flooding can also lead to the spread of disease and the displacement of people from their homes.

Droughts

Droughts are another common natural hazard. They occur when there is a prolonged period of below-average precipitation. Droughts can cause widespread damage to agriculture, and they can also lead to water shortages and wildfires. In the United States, droughts are the most costly natural hazard.

There are a number of factors that can contribute to droughts, including:

- Changes in climate
- El Niño and La Niña

- Deforestation
- Overuse of water

Droughts can have a devastating impact on communities. They can lead to crop failures, water shortages, and wildfires. Droughts can also damage the economy and lead to the displacement of people from their homes.

Contamination

Surface and groundwater systems can also be contaminated by a variety of pollutants, including:

- Bacteria
- Viruses
- Chemicals
- Heavy metals

Contamination can occur from a variety of sources, including:

- Industrial activities
- Agricultural activities
- Wastewater treatment plants
- Septic tanks
- Landfills

Contamination of surface and groundwater systems can pose a serious health risk. It can lead to the spread of waterborne diseases, such as

cholera and typhoid fever. Contamination can also damage aquatic ecosystems and make water unsafe for drinking, swimming, and fishing.

Pollution

Surface and groundwater systems can also be polluted by a variety of pollutants, including:

- Sediments
- Nutrients
- Toxic chemicals

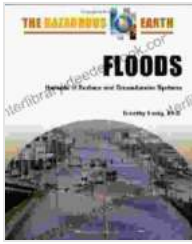
Pollution can occur from a variety of sources, including:

- Agricultural activities
- Urban runoff
- Industrial activities
- Mining activities
- Transportation activities

Pollution of surface and groundwater systems can damage aquatic ecosystems and make water unsafe for drinking, swimming, and fishing. Pollution can also contribute to climate change and other environmental problems.

Surface and groundwater systems are essential for life on Earth. However, these systems can also be hazardous. Flooding, droughts, contamination, and pollution are all threats to the safety and health of our water resources.

It is important to protect these systems from these hazards in order to ensure the future of our planet.



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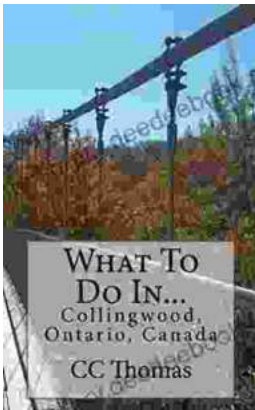
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