



Muddy floods in Saxony: occurrence, damages and costs

S. A. Arévalo, S. Reichel, M. Schindewolf, and J. Schmidt

Technical University Freiberg, Soil and Water Conservation Unit, Geosciences, Freiberg, Germany
(arevalo@tbt.tu-freiberg.de, 00493731393329)

A muddy flood is a natural hazard with small impact area. Usually a single event covers only a part of a street and some properties, in some cases it might affect up to a whole neighbourhood. Due to this small spatial extend the public awareness is generally low. On the other hand we know from random reports that in some areas, like the Saxon loess belt region, muddy floods do occur repeatedly. The damages caused by muddy floods range from mud covered streets to flooded cellars and houses.

Although the awareness of muddy floods in Europe has increased during the last decade, there is still very few information about frequency, spatial extend and the related costs. There have been investigations of muddy flood occurrence in some European countries like England, France, Belgium, Poland and Slovakia, but there is no information available about the muddy flood occurrence in Germany. That is because German state departments do not usually register muddy floods and neither do insurance companies. The only institution that is almost always informed when muddy floods occur are local fire brigades. That is why in this investigation an enquiry of all fire brigades in the study area of the Saxon hilly loess region was performed. The aim was to gain first information about the general dimension of the problem, a temporal and spatial distribution as well as a first appraisal of costs. The obtained database of muddy floods will also serve for further investigation of the problem.