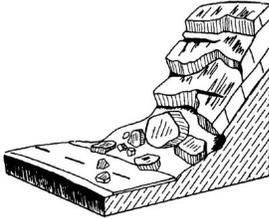


Landslides



Landslides are a serious geological hazard common to almost every state in the United States. Hillside and canyon areas are especially prone to mud and debris flows after firestorms.

What to do BEFORE a landslide:

- Learn about landslide risk in your area. Go to the California Geological Survey's website at www.consrv.ca.gov/cgs and select the Geological Hazards tab for more information about landslides, mudslides and debris flows.
- Discuss the risk from landslides and debris flow with your family. Discussing disaster ahead of time helps reduce fear and lets everyone know how to respond during a landslide, debris flow or other emergency. Everyone should know what to do in case all family members are not together.
- Develop an evacuation plan. Know where to go if you have to leave.
- Talk to your insurance agent. Debris flow may be covered by flood insurance policies from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- Watch the patterns of stormwater drainage on slopes near your home and especially places where runoff water converges, increasing flow over soil-covered slopes. Watch the hillsides around your home for any signs of land movement, such as small erosion signs, landslides or debris flows, or progressively tilting trees. Watching small changes could alert you to the potential of a greater landslide threat.

What to do DURING a landslide:

- Stay alert and awake. Many debris flow fatalities occur when people are sleeping. Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or portable, battery-powered radio or television for warnings of intense rainfall. Be aware that intense, short bursts of rain may be particularly dangerous, especially after longer periods of heavy rainfall and damp weather.
- If you are in areas susceptible to landslides and debris flows, consider leaving if it is safe to do so. If you remain at home, move to a secondary story if possible. Staying out of the path of a landslide or debris flow saves lives.
- Listen for any unusual sounds that might indicate moving debris, such as trees cracking or boulders knocking together. A trickle of flowing or falling mud or debris may precede larger landslides. Moving debris can flow quickly and sometimes without warning.
- If you are near a stream or channel, be alert for any sudden increase or decrease of water flow and for a change from clear to muddy water. Such changes may indicate landslide activity upstream, so be prepared to move quickly. Don't delay! Save yourself, not your belongings.

