

LANDSLIDE

Landslides occur when rock, dirt, and other debris move or fall down a slope. A landslide may also be called a “debris flow” or a “mudslide,” which flows through channels saturated with water. Landslides may be caused by storms, fires, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, freezing and thawing cycles, erosion or manmade construction. They can be small, large, slow or rapid, as well as extremely destructive.



How to Prepare for a Landslide

- If you live anywhere near a steep slope, mountain edge, drainage way or natural erosion valley, be aware of the history of landslides in your area and the danger of future landslides.
- Have flexible drainage pipes installed to minimize the risk of leaks.
- Build retaining walls to divert flow. Make sure the flow is not diverted into someone else’s property.
- Plant ground cover on slopes to diminish the momentum of flow.
- Get an emergency supply kit.
- Develop a family evacuation procedure and a communication plan.

What to Do If There Is a Landslide

- Be on alert for a possible landslide if you live in an area prone to landslides and you are experiencing an extended period of heavy rain. Most landslides happen at night during heavy rainfall.
- If you suspect a landslide is imminent:
 - Stay tuned to the radio and TV or call the local emergency departments to determine the risk and get further instructions.
 - Evacuate (if it is safe to do so) to ensure that you are out of the path of the landslide.
- During a landslide, if you have not already evacuated, try to get as far away from the path of the landslide as possible.
- If you are unable to move out of the path of the landslide, curl into a tight ball and cover your head to provide the best protection for your body.
- Once you are in a safe place, report to your command if you are military or government civilian personnel or a member of the selective reserves.

What to Do After a Landslide

- Stay away from the slide area, as there may be danger of additional slides.
- Stay tuned to radio or TV for further information and instructions.
- Be aware of the possibility of flooding, broken utility lines and damaged roads.
- Check for injured or trapped people near the slide, but do not enter the slide to help. Direct rescue personnel to those trapped in the slide area.
- When you are told it is safe to return to the slide area, check buildings for structural damage before entering.
- Replant damaged ground as soon as possible.



Where to Find Additional Information

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—
 - <https://www.ready.gov/landslides-debris-flow>
 - <https://www.ready.gov/kids/know-the-facts>
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)—<http://www.usgs.gov/faq/taxonomy/term/9752>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/landslides.asp>
- American Red Cross—<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/landslide>
- Ready Army—www.ready.army.mil

It's up to you. Prepare strong. Get an emergency supply kit with enough supplies for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family and be informed about what might happen.

