

Landslide

Preparedness Checklist

Landslides are rocks, soil, and mud falling down a slope. They can happen suddenly or develop slowly over time. They are deadly and can sweep away homes and roads. Landslides can be triggered by earthquakes, heavy rain, melting snow, volcanic eruptions and wildfires. Mudflows, debris flows, mudslides and avalanches are all types of landslides. The climate crisis is causing more intense rain events, earlier snow melt, rising sea levels and larger wildfires, increasing landslide risk. But we can take action to prepare. Prepare now to protect yourself, your loved ones and your home.



What to Do: Before



Know Your Risk

- Learn about landslide risks in your area. Landslides happen in every US state and territory. Any mountain or hill can have a landslide.
- A previous landslide is the biggest risk factor for another landslide.
- Even a few inches of slope movement can damage your home, break septic, sewer, water lines and crack your home's foundation.
- Know the causes and signs of landslides:



Reduce Your Risk

- Consider consulting with a professional to have your land surveyed. There are ways to reduce your landslide risks.
- Avoid making cuts in steep slopes.
- Plant more native trees and plants on slopes, avoid cutting them down.
- Direct rainwater that falls on your roof or driveway away from slopes at risk of landslides.

Causes of Landslides	Signs of Landslide Activity in Your Area
<p>Natural causes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Heavy rain ▪ Waterlogged soil ▪ Wave or river erosion ▪ Steep slopes ▪ Earthquakes ▪ Wildfires <p>Human causes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drainage onto steep slopes ▪ Unsafe excavation ▪ Poor placement of septic tank ▪ Too much weight on a slope ▪ No drainage from pavement ▪ Unsafe fill zones ▪ Poorly monitored irrigation systems ▪ Wildfires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tilted or bent trees ▪ Sagging utility lines ▪ Springs that develop in new places or streams that stop flowing suddenly ▪ Cracks in ground ▪ Earthen mounds on a slope ▪ Sunken or broken roads ▪ Cracks in the streets, walls, floors, and around windows or doors ▪ Leaking or broken pipes ▪ Floors, posts, or walls that are tilted ▪ Windows or doors that suddenly begin to stick ▪ Movement of soil away from foundation ▪ Watch the patterns of storm-water drainage near your home. Note the places where runoff water converges. This may indicate an area prone to landslides.



Make Plans to Stay Safe

- Learn about the emergency response and evacuation plans for your area.
- Develop your own emergency plan for your family or business.



If You Think a Landslide Could Happen

- Evacuate! Getting out of the path of a landslide or debris flow is your best protection.
- Once you are safe:
 - Call 9-1-1 to report emergency.
 - Inform affected neighbors. Your neighbors may not be aware of the danger.



Understand Landslide Alerts

- **Landslide Advisory:** An advisory states the potential for landslides in a certain area.
- **Landslide Watch:** A watch means that landslides are possible. People in a Landslide Watch area should monitor weather conditions and consider avoiding the area.
- **Landslide Warning:** Warnings indicate that landslides are occurring. Avoid the area. If you are in the landslide area, evacuate.

What About Avalanches?

An avalanche is a large amount of snow moving quickly down a mountain. When an avalanche stops, the snow becomes packed. People who are trapped may not be able to dig out. People can die from suffocation, trauma, or hypothermia.

Prepare for an avalanche before one happens:

- Learn about your local avalanche risk.
- Avoid areas of increased risk.
- Know the signs of increased danger, including recent avalanches and shooting cracks across slopes.
- Get training on how to recognize hazardous conditions.
- Sign up for alerts from the U.S. Forest Service Avalanche Center. Your community may also have a local warning system.

What to Do: During



- The only way to stay safe is to evacuate the area before a landslide happens. Closely follow guidance from local officials. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. If you feel you are in danger, don't wait for an official announcement, evacuate now.
- Monitor weather conditions. Be aware that intense, short bursts of rain may cause landslides.
- Never cross a road with water or mud flowing. **Turn Around, Don't Drown!**
- Avoid river valleys and low-lying areas during times of danger.

What to Do: After



Stay Safe

- Stay away from the site. Additional slides are likely.
- Without entering the direct slide area, check for injured and trapped people. Direct trained rescuers to their locations.
- If you evacuated, listen to authorities to find out if it is safe to return.
- Avoid damaged or fallen power lines, poles, and downed wires. They can electrocute you.
- Check your home and property for damage. Consult with a professional if needed.
- Stabilize your land with landscaping and plants.



Take Care of Yourself

- It's normal to have a lot of bad feelings, stress, or anxiety after a disaster or other emergency.
- Eat healthy food and get enough sleep to help you deal with stress.
- You can contact the Disaster Distress Helpline for free if you need to talk to someone. Call or text **1-800-985-5990**.

Prepare so you can protect. | For more information, visit redcross.org/prepare | Download the Emergency App

