



LANDSLIDE

Landslides are characterized by the downslope movement of rock, dirt, and other debris. Often referred to as debris flows or mudslides – particularly when water plays a significant role in channelized movement – these events are triggered by a variety of factors. These causes range from natural events like heavy rainfall, wildfires, earthquakes, volcanic activity, and freeze-thaw cycles, to environmental processes such as erosion, and even human activities like construction and land modification.



Due to this diverse range of contributing factors, landslides can vary greatly in size, speed, and overall destructive potential. Consequently, a thorough understanding of these elements is critical for effective risk assessment.

Landslide Preparedness & Response

Preparation:

- **Know Your Risk:** Be aware of landslide history in your area, especially if near slopes, mountains, drainage ways, or erosion valleys.
- **Infrastructure:** Install flexible drainage pipes & build retaining walls to manage water flow. Plant ground cover on slopes to reduce flow momentum.
- **Emergency Planning:** Assemble an emergency supply kit & develop a family evacuation/communication plan.

During a Landslide:

- **Situational Awareness:** Monitor conditions during extended heavy rain in landslide-prone areas.
- **Evacuate:** If a landslide is imminent and safe to do so, evacuate the area immediately.
- **Seek Information:** Stay tuned to local media & emergency departments for updates & instructions.
- **Protect Yourself:** If evacuation isn't possible, move away from the path or curl into a protective position covering your head.
- **Report:** If military/government personnel, report to your command after reaching safety.

Post-Landslide:

- **Stay Clear:** Avoid the slide area due to potential for further slides.
- **Monitor Updates:** Continue monitoring media for information & instructions.
- **Assess Hazards:** Be aware of potential flooding, damaged utilities, & roads.
- **Safety First:** Check for injured individuals, but *do not* enter the slide area – direct rescue personnel.
- **Structural Integrity:** Inspect buildings for damage before re-entry when authorized.
- **Restoration:** Replant damaged ground cover as soon as possible.

Where to Find Additional Information

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): <https://www.ready.gov/landslides-debris-flow>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/natural-disasters/index.html>
- American Red Cross: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/landslide.html>
- Ready Army: <https://www.army.mil/ready>

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. These fact sheets are intended to supplement predetermined plans and policies. Follow state, local, installation and command guidance related to threats and hazards.

