



Skamania County Department of Public Works Landslide Hazards and Identification

Landslide and Debris Flow (Mudslide) Prior to and During a Landslide

Stay alert.

Many debris-flow fatalities occur when people are sleeping. Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or a 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.

Remember that driving during an intense storm can be hazardous. If you remain at home, move to a second 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, roots “popping” 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 in 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.

Be especially alert when driving.

Embankments along roadsides are particularly susceptible to landslides. Watch the road for collapsed pavement, misaligned guardrail, mud, fallen rocks, and other indications of possible debris flows.

What to Do if You Suspect Imminent Landslide Danger

Call 911, Contact your local fire, police, or public works department

Local officials are the best resource to assess potential danger.

Inform affected neighbors

Your neighbors may not be aware of potential hazards. Advising them of a potential threat may help save lives. Help neighbors who may need assistance to evacuate.

Evacuate.

Getting out of the path of a landslide or debris flow is your best protection.

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After the Landslide

Stay away from the slide area.

There may be danger of additional slides.

Check for injured and trapped persons near the slide, without entering the direct slide area. Direct rescuers to their locations.

Help a neighbor who may require special assistance - infants, elderly people, and people with disabilities.

Elderly people and people with disabilities may require additional assistance. People who care for them or who have large families may need additional assistance in emergency situations.

Listen to local radio or television stations for the latest emergency information.

Watch for flooding, which may occur after a landslide or debris flow.

Floods sometimes follow landslides and debris flows as they may both be started by the same event.

Look for and report broken utility lines to the local utility company.

Reporting potential hazards will get the utilities turned off as quickly as possible, preventing further hazard and injury.

Check the building foundation, chimney, and surrounding land for damage.

Damage to foundations, chimneys, or surrounding land may help you assess the safety of the area.

Replant damaged ground as soon as possible since erosion caused by loss of ground cover can lead to flash flooding.

Seek the advice of a geotechnical expert for evaluating landslide hazards or designing corrective techniques to reduce landslide risk.

A professional will be able to advise you of the best ways to prevent or reduce landslide risk, without creating further hazard.