



Landslides/Mudslides/ Debris Flows

Landslides have occurred in almost every state and can be caused by earthquakes, storms, heavy rain, snowmelt, volcanic eruptions, fire, and human modification of land. The term landslide describes downhill earth movements that can move slowly and cause damage gradually, or move rapidly, destroying property and taking lives suddenly and unexpectedly. Landslides can also be referred to as mudslides, debris flows, mudflows, or debris avalanches. Mudslides usually start on steep slopes and develop when water rapidly accumulates in the ground and results in a surge of water-saturated rock, earth, and debris.

How it Might Impact Your Utility Service

- Loss of power.
- Gas, electric, and water services.



ALERTS

Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

BEFORE A LANDSLIDE

- Remember the four steps of emergency planning:
 - R**eview your family preparedness plan
 - E**stablish a communications plan
 - A**ssemble a disaster supply kit
 - D**evelop a family evacuation plan
- Assume that steep slopes and areas burned by wildfires are vulnerable to landslides and debris flows.
- Watch the patterns of storm water drainage on slopes near your home, especially where runoff water converges.
- Be aware that, generally, landslide insurance is not available, but that debris flow damage may be covered by flood insurance policies from the National Flood Insurance Program at www.FloodSmart.gov.

DURING A LANDSLIDE

- Stay alert and awake. Many deaths from landslides occur while people are sleeping.
- Listen to local news stations on a battery-powered radio for warnings of heavy rainfall.
- If you suspect imminent danger, evacuate immediately. Inform affected neighbors if you can, and contact your public works, fire or police department.
- Look for tilted trees, telephone poles, fences, or walls, and for new holes or bare spots on hillsides.

AFTER A LANDSLIDE

- Stay away from the slide area. Flooding or additional slides may occur after a landslide or mudflow.
- Listen to local radio or television stations for the latest emergency information.
- Look for and report broken utility lines to appropriate authorities.