

## **What can you do about landslides before and during an intense storm? Here are some helpful tips.**

### ***Prior to intense storms:***

1. Become familiar with the land around you. Learn whether landslides or debris flows have occurred in your area by contacting local officials or university departments of geology. Slopes where debris flows have occurred in the past are likely to experience them in the future. Determine whether your homeowners insurance covers earth movements. If you have reason to be concerned about the stability of your property, hire a registered geologist, engineering geologist or geotechnical engineer to evaluate the site and recommend actions to improve stability.
2. Contact your local authorities to learn about the emergency-response and evacuation plans for your area and develop your own emergency plans for your family and business.
3. Watch the patterns of storm-water drainage on slopes near your home, and note especially the places where runoff water converges, increasing flow over soil-covered slopes. Watch the hillsides around your home for any signs of land movement, such as small landslides or debris flows or progressively tilting trees.

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Online resources:

[Landslide Hazards in Oregon fact sheet](#) from the Oregon Department of Geology (1266 KB PDF)

[Learn more about debris flow warnings](#)

[A Homeowner's Guide to Landslides, produced by Portland State University \(PDF\)](#)

### ***During intense storms:***

1. Stay alert and stay awake! Many debris-flow fatalities occur when people are sleeping. Listen to a radio 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.

2. 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 is hazardous. Sites on or near steep slopes, and at the mouths of small canyons and valleys are particularly susceptible to landslides.
3. Listen for any unusual sounds that might indicate moving debris, such as trees cracking or boulders knocking together. A trickle of flowing or falling mud or debris may precede larger flows. 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 debris flow activity upstream, so be prepared to move quickly. Don't delay! Save yourself, not your belongings.
4. Be especially alert when driving. Embankments along roadsides are particularly susceptible to landslides. Watch the road for collapsed pavement, mud, fallen rocks, and other indications of possible debris flows.

***If you suspect imminent landslide danger: Evacuate, contact your local fire, police, or public works department and inform your neighbors.***

If your property or neighborhood is impacted by a landslide:

1. Evacuate immediately, notify emergency responders by calling 911, and comply with all emergency personnel at the site regarding access to the home or neighborhood.
2. Hire a registered geologist, engineering geologist or geotechnical engineer to assess the stability of the site and determine the cause of the event and recommend stabilization measures.

***When things calm down:***

Support your local government in efforts to develop and enforce land-use and building ordinances that regulate construction in areas susceptible to landslides and debris flows. Buildings should be located away from steep slopes, streams and rivers, intermittent-stream channels, and the mouths of mountain channels.

To learn more about landslides in Oregon, you can [read and/or download our Landslide Fact Sheet here.](#)

To learn more about Debris Flows, a dangerous type of fast moving, destructive landslide, [click here.](#)

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