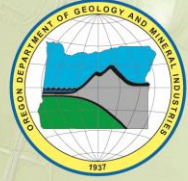


# OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

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## Landslides and debris flows possible in southwest Oregon

*Stay alert and use caution as a Flood Watch begins in multiple locations*

The National Weather Service has issued a Flood Watch for 4 p.m. today through Friday afternoon for the following areas:

- Curry County coast and eastern Curry County.
- Josephine County.
- Siskiyou Mountains.
- Southern Oregon Cascades.
- South central Oregon coast.
- The cities of Port Orford, Brookings, Gold Beach, and Cave Junction.
- Western Siskiyou County, California.

The official NWS statement is here: <http://tinyurl.com/kwy4gap>

Landslides and debris flows are possible during this flood event. People, structures and roads located below steep slopes in canyons and near the mouths of canyons may be at serious risk from rapidly moving landslides.

According to the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), caution should be used when traveling over the mountains during this time. The most dangerous places include:

- Canyon bottoms, stream channels, and areas of rock and soil accumulation at the outlets of canyons.
- Bases of steep hillsides.
- Road cuts or other areas where slopes of hills have been excavated or over steepened.
- Places where slides or debris flows have occurred in the past.

Debris flows are rapidly moving, extremely destructive landslides. They can easily travel a mile or more, depending on the terrain. They will contain boulders and logs and transport those in a fast-moving soil and water slurry.

*DOGAMI's mission is to provide earth science information and regulation to make Oregon safe and prosperous.*

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Some areas are more hazardous than others when the danger of landslides is high. If there is a flood warning, stay away from the river. Stay away from steep slopes during intense rainstorms. Knowing ahead of time where the danger areas around your home for potential landslides might be is the first step in being prepared.

Follow these steps:

- Stay alert. Listen to the radio, TV, or a weather radio for flood watches, which include the potential for debris flows and if told to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Listen for unusual sounds that might indicate moving debris, such as trees cracking or boulders knocking together. A trickle of falling mud or debris may precede larger landslides.
- If you think there is danger of a landslide, leave immediately.
- If water in a stream or creek suddenly turns muddy or the amount of water flowing suddenly decreases or increases, this is a warning that the flow has been affected upstream. You should immediately leave the area because a debris flow may soon be coming downstream.
- Assume highways are not safe. Be alert when driving, especially at night.
- Embankments along roadsides may fail, sending rock and debris onto the road.
- Landowners and road managers should check road drainage systems and conduct needed maintenance in case the predicted heavy precipitation does occur.

Cleaning up after landslides can also be hazardous. A small mudslide can actually be part of a larger landslide. Cleanup should not be done until after the storm.

Learn more about landslides and debris flows and how to prepare:

DOGAMI landslide and debris flow information: [www.oregongeology.org/sub/Landslide/Landslidehome.htm](http://www.oregongeology.org/sub/Landslide/Landslidehome.htm)

DOGAMI landslide fact sheet (PDF): <http://www.oregongeology.org/sub/publications/landslide-factsheet.pdf>

For the latest updates, visit the National Weather Service at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov).

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*The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is an independent agency of the State and has a broad responsibility in developing an understanding of the state's geologic resources and natural hazards. The Department then makes this information available to communities and individuals to help inform and reduce the risks from natural hazards, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods and volcanic eruptions. The Department assists in the formulation of state policy where an understanding of geologic materials, geologic resources, processes, and hazards is key to decision-making. The Department is also the lead state regulatory agency for mining, oil, gas and geothermal exploration, production and reclamation. Learn more at [www.OregonGeology.org](http://www.OregonGeology.org)*

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