



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

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Remembering the Oso landslide

As the anniversary of Washington's devastating landslide approaches, work continues to understand, prepare for the geologic hazard

PORTLAND, Ore. – March 22 marks the one-year anniversary of the tragic Oso, Wash. landslide.

Awareness of the Pacific Northwest's landslide hazard has greatly increased over the past year. The Statewide Landslide Information Database for Oregon (SLIDO) is now the most viewed of all Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) interactive web maps, with SLIDO page views increasing more than sevenfold.

"Landslides are a common and incredibly destructive natural hazard," says Ian Madin, interim State Geologist. "More Oregonians are seeking information about landslide hazards near their homes, and steps they can take to assess and prevent potential landslides."

Scientists, policy makers, emergency managers, planners and many others are also coming together to address landslide hazards. A recent Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists three-day forum focused on how to better protect people and places from landslide hazards. Landslide-related legislation is currently being considered at state and national levels. Scientists are also continuing to study the Oso landslide to learn more about how the unusually fast-moving, large and complex landslide occurred.

Landslides occur in all 50 states and U.S. territories, and cause more than 25 fatalities and damages of \$1-2 billion on average each year, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. DOGAMI's landslide hazard program maps where landslides have occurred in the past to better understand where they may occur in the future, and to analyze landslide risks.

Recent DOGAMI landslide projects include a study of coastal Curry County's landslide hazards, a landslide hazard and risk study for Clackamas County, and a landslide hazard and risk study for the city of Astoria.

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries provides earth science information and regulation to make Oregon safe and prosperous. Learn more at www.OregonGeology.org

“We can’t predict when and where the next landslide events will occur, but communities can become more resilient to the hazard by understanding and considering landslide hazards,” says Bill Burns, DOGAMI engineering geologist.

LEARN MORE

Statewide Landslide Information Database for Oregon: <http://bit.ly/oregonslido>

Debris flow and landslide warning information: <http://bit.ly/landslidehazards>

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