



## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

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## **Be alert for debris flows in central and northeast Oregon**

PENDLETON, Ore. - The National Weather Service has issued a flash flood watch for today and Friday for portions of central and northeast Oregon. Debris flows are possible in areas with steep terrain during this weather event.

A flash flood watch is in effect from 3 p.m. today through Friday evening for Grande Ronde Valley, John Day Basin, Northern and Southern Blue Mountains, Ochoco-John Day Highlands and Wallowa County. A flash flood watch is in effect from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. today for east slopes of the Oregon Cascades.

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

"Intense rainfall is a common landslide trigger," says Ali Ryan, earth science information officer for the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI). "Debris flows are possible during this event, so it's important to be aware of the potential hazard and avoid areas with steep terrain."

For latest flash flood watch updates, visit: <http://1.usa.gov/1zJLVZW>

People, structures and roads located below steep slopes in canyons and near the mouths of canyons may be at serious risk. Caution should be used when traveling. According to DOGAMI, 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.

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

Statewide Landslide Information Database (SLIDO): [www.oregongeology.org/slido](http://www.oregongeology.org/slido)

Landslide and debris flow resources: <http://bit.ly/landslidehazards>

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