



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Be alert for debris flows, landslides in Curry, Josephine counties

Medford, OR—The National Weather Service has issued a flash flood watch for ONLY the Klondike and Chetco Bar burn areas in Curry and Josephine counties for Tuesday, December 18 from 4 a.m. PST through 10 p.m.

Heavy rain can trigger landslides and debris flows in steep terrain, and the risk is higher in burn areas.

Find a map of the watch area and latest information here:

<https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mfr/hazard>

Debris flows are rapidly moving, extremely destructive landslides. They can contain boulders and logs transported in a fast-moving soil and water slurry down steep hillsides and through narrow canyons. They can easily travel a mile or more. A debris flow moves faster than a person can run. People, structures and roads located below steep slopes in canyons and near the mouths of canyons may be at serious risk.

If your home, work, or route is in a watch area:

- Stay alert. Track the flood watch by radio, TV, weather radio or online. If told to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Listen. Unusual sounds 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.

- Watch the water. 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.
- Travel with extreme caution. Assume roads are not safe. Be alert when driving, especially at night. Embankments along roadsides may fail, sending rock and debris onto the road.

For more landslide and debris flow information:

<https://www.oregongeology.org/Landslide/debrisflow.htm>

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