
FACTSHEET

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Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Emergency Management BC

Landslides

As our cities, towns, roads and highways steadily encroach onto steeper slopes and mountainsides, landslide hazards become an increasingly serious threat to residents, infrastructure and natural resources.

By getting to know drainage patterns in your area, and monitoring creeks near your property, you can recognize changes that may indicate a potential upstream hazard.

Facts:

- Heavy rainfall increases the chance of landslides and flash flooding. If you live down slope from a potential slide area, listen for unusual sounds that might indicate moving debris, such as trees cracking or boulders colliding.
- Learn the history of landslides and debris flows on or near your property and the areas you visit often. Flood hazard mapping is available through your local government.
- Be aware of dikes or flood-control structures that may be protecting your property – some of these may be privately owned and no longer be maintained. Check with the B.C. Dam Safety Program if you have any concerns or questions: <http://ow.ly/9gwG30881PJ>.

During a landslide

- If you are near a stream or channel, be alert for any sudden increase or decrease in water flow and notice whether the water changes from clear to muddy. Such changes may mean there is debris flow activity upstream, so be prepared to move quickly.
- Stay well away from the path of a landslide or debris flow. If necessary, move perpendicular to, not downward from the flow.
- If you receive an evacuation order, leave the area immediately. Failing to leave when instructed can endanger both you and the lives of first responders.

After a landslide

- Stay away from the slide area, there may be danger of additional slides. Do not return until notified by local emergency officials that it is safe to return.
- Watch for flooding, including new fountains or waterfalls or blocked culverts.
- Look for and report broken utility lines and damaged roadways and railways to appropriate authorities. Reporting potential hazards may prevent further hazard and injury.

Contact:

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