

STORM SEASON SAFETY



STAY SAFE IN MUDSLIDES & DEBRIS FLOWS

Hey Californians! As cooler months bring new, interrelated challenges to our state, like mudslides and debris flows, Listos California is taking action to protect our communities.

While the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and first responders across our state prepare for this climate-driven extreme weather, there are a few simple steps YOU can take today to keep yourself, your loved ones and neighbors safe.

Severe storms and heavy rains increase the risk of floods and can lead to mudslides or debris flows. These conditions can threaten your life.



KNOW WHERE MUDSLIDES OR DEBRIS FLOWS HAPPEN

- **Mudslides:** When water rapidly accumulates in the ground, a slope can fail to hold. Lots of dirt, rocks and plants slide quickly down the hill in a river of mud. Watch for mudslides in areas with:
 - Steep slopes and runoff
 - Prior mudslides and floods
 - Construction
 - Burn scars from wildfires
 - Tilting telephone poles, trees or fences
- **Debris flows:** Fast-moving mass of material that moves downhill by sliding, flowing and/or falling. Materials include slurries of water, rock, soil, vegetation, and even boulders and trees. Debris flows generally occur during periods of intense rainfall or rapid snowmelt. They usually start on hillsides or mountains.
 - Rain in the mountains can start a debris flow, even if it's not raining – or only sprinkling – where you live. Monitor incoming storms and pay attention when officials issue a flash flood watch or warning for your area.
 - You may be more at risk if:
 - You live near hills, slopes, streams, creeks, arroyos or rivers
 - Your area had a wildfire in the past few years
 - Recent rains have already soaked the ground near you
 - Even small debris flows can be dangerous.



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PREPARE FOR A MUDSLIDE OR DEBRIS FLOW

- Sign up for local emergency alerts at ListosCalifornia.org/Alerts to get alerts sent to your phone.
- Pay attention to authorities and local news. Be ready to evacuate all people and animals to higher ground if ordered. Have a Go Bag ready with important documents and personal items you want to have if you must leave home fast.
- Learn several routes to safety if roads become blocked by mud or water.
- Be aware of normal water flow for streams, creeks and rivers near you.
- Get sandbags to protect your doors and foundations.
- Clear debris from drains and gutters near your home.
- Plant ground cover on bare slopes near your home to help hold the soil in place.



STAY SAFE DURING A MUDSLIDE OR DEBRIS FLOW

- Stay alert. Listen for sounds that might mean a mudslide/debris flow is coming, such as trees cracking or big rocks knocking together. A low rumble may become a roar as a mudslide or debris flow gets closer.
- Move to the nearest high ground if you live near an area prone to mudslides or debris flows.
- Do not walk through moving water. As little as 6 inches of water can make you fall. Often, you can't tell how deep it is or what the water is hiding.
- Do not attempt to drive through a flood, debris flow, or into flooded areas. It takes only 12 inches of water to float most cars, and 2 feet of rushing water can carry away any vehicle – cars, SUVs and trucks.



RECOVER FROM A MUDSLIDE OR DEBRIS FLOW

- After a mudslide or debris flow, stay away from the site. More mudslides, debris or flooding may follow the first one.
- If you had to evacuate your home, even for a potential mudslide, do not return until officials say it is safe.
- Document any damage with pictures before beginning cleanup or repairs.
- Contact your insurance provider to report any damage to your home and ask about recommended next steps.

