



# Steps to take During Flooding and Recognizing Mudslides

## **During flooding, Don't Drown, Turn Around!**

- Never drive around marked flood barricades placed by public safety personnel and never drive into floodwater. Water over a road, no matter how deep, can hide washed out roads.
- Most cars can be swept away in 18-24 inches of moving water. Once swept downstream, a vehicle will often roll to one side or perhaps flip over entirely, giving the occupants only a few seconds to escape.
- Never attempt to walk or wade through flowing water. As little as six inches of rapidly moving water can sweep you off your feet and carry you downstream.
- When faced with water-covered roads, take an alternate route or wait until the water recedes. If you or someone around you needs help, dial 911.

## **Recognize Landslide Warning Signs**

- Changes occur in your landscape such as patterns of storm-water drainage on slopes (especially the places where runoff water converges) land movement, small slides, flows, or progressively leaning trees.
- Doors or windows stick or jam for the first time.
- New cracks appear in plaster, tile, brick, or foundations.
- Outside walls, walks, or stairs begin pulling away from the building.
- Slowly developing, widening cracks appear on the ground or on paved areas such as streets or driveways.
- Underground utility lines break.
- Bulging ground appears at the base of a slope.
- Water breaks through the ground surface in new locations.
- Fences, retaining walls, utility poles, or trees tilt or move.
- A faint rumbling sound that increases in volume is noticeable as the landslide nears.
- The ground slopes downward in one direction and may begin shifting in that direction under your feet.
- Unusual sounds, such as trees cracking or boulders knocking together, might indicate moving debris.
- Collapsed pavement, mud, fallen rocks, and other indications of possible debris flow can be seen when driving (embankments along roadsides are particularly susceptible to landslides).