

SLOPE SAFETY AFTER LANDSLIDES

What triggers landslides?

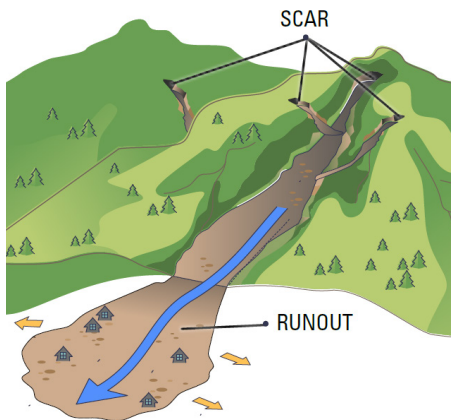
What should you watch for after slopes fail?



NC GEOLOGICAL
SURVEY



REPORT A
LANDSLIDE



TRIGGERS

Rain is the main landslide trigger. When an area gets more than 4 inches of rain, whether over half a day or three days, the ground can become unstable and start moving. Snow can have similar effect but is rare in our area. We would need about 40 inches of snow followed by rapid melting to cause instability.

Moving and removing dirt or debris on sensitive slopes could trigger instability and create slides on these newly formed slopes. Using heavy construction equipment on or near slopes should only be attempted after consulting with a professional.

STABILIZATION AFTER A LANDSLIDE

After a landslide, you might see rocks and clods of dirt continuing to roll down the new slope. This is a sign the slope is stabilizing and naturally settling into position. Over time, you should see less of this activity.

Newly formed slopes will naturally stabilize over time, unless impacted by more rain or disturbance by construction work. Exposed soil on slopes can wash away causing property damage. Fallen trees and brush aren't always a problem – they can actually help hold the soil in place. Seeding and allowing native vegetation to grow on bare soil also slows erosion and creates natural stability. While trees might fall during high winds, they don't usually trigger new landslides.

Warning Signs to Watch For

- Cracks across the slope (especially near the top) that get bigger over time
- Damaged or deformed fences, walls, or buildings
- Cracks on a house or foundation
- Doors or windows that become hard to open, or won't stay open or closed
- Trees that start to lean

GETTING HELP

If you notice any of these signs on your property, get expert help:

Geotechnical experts assess slope stability

Engineers check if buildings are safe and recommend repairs

Civil engineers help prevent soil erosion and recommend how to stabilize bare slopes

Professional Foresters can advise on removing fallen trees safely and which trees and brush may stabilize slopes

Report a landslide: <https://tinyurl.com/2nvekj5v>

NC Geological Survey: <https://tinyurl.com/2emdfx34> or (828) 296-4540