

Landslide Key Messaging

1. The GNS Science rapid response team provides expert capability for landslides in New Zealand. Engineering geologists and geotechnical engineers are available 24/7 to forecast, monitor and respond to landslide activity.
2. Aotearoa New Zealand is prone to landslides, in part because of the many earthquakes we experience every year.
3. Landslides can be triggered by heavy rain or earthquakes and can occur with little to no warning.
4. GNS Science investigates landslides (on land and under water) and provides evidence-based guidance on the mitigation of their risks.
5. GNS Science's National Geohazards Monitoring Centre (NGMC) provides around-the-clock eyes-on monitoring of geohazards in New Zealand including earthquakes, tsunami, volcanoes, and landslides.
6. When the monitoring team detects any potential threat, our 24/7 team is activated to undertake immediate expert assessment. A scalable team, expert panels and science intelligence teams can be brought in as part of our incident management system. They will provide advice to national decision-makers leading the response to ensure good decision making to help keep people safe from harm.
7. We use weather forecasts to determine landslide probability across regions, so we can identify where people and infrastructure are more likely to be impacted.
8. We provide local government and emergency response agencies with information on where we can expect the most severe impacts of rainfall-induced landslides, so they can make good, evidence-based decisions.
9. Our scientists often do aerial surveillance, looking for landslides that might go on to move further and cause life safety risk, or damage to critical infrastructure.
10. As well as aerial surveys, we gather information from public observations and agency reports, and from drone surveys and satellite data analysis. Then we map where the greatest known risks are and provide that information to the response and recovery teams.

Emergency / preparedness messaging

A landslide may be triggered by heavy rain or earthquakes, with homes near hills or steep slopes most at risk.

If you live near a hill or steep slope, watch out for cracks or movement that could be a warning sign. Follow [Civil Defence's advice on what warning signs to look out for](#), so you can act quickly if you see them.

If you've been evacuated, continue to stay at your safe location until you have been given the all-clear to return home.

If you notice something different about your home, for example, the doors and windows don't close, cracks have appeared in the cladding and/or on paved surfaces, or if you observe changes to the hills immediately above or in the ground around your property (new cracks appearing, bulging ground etc.) you should self-evacuate to a safe location and let the council know.

Follow local emergency management advice to keep you and your whānau safe.

What to do during a landslide or if you think a landslide is about to happen:

If a landslide occurs – or you see any signs that the ground is unstable – evacuate immediately.

Take your pets with you, and move livestock to safe paddocks, if you can do so without endangering yourself.

Warn neighbours and help others if you can.

If lives are in danger dial 111. Otherwise, seek advice from your local council once you are in a safe location.