

WORST-CASE SCENARIO®

HOW TO SURVIVE A MUD SLIDE

1

Run perpendicular to the slide.

You cannot outrace a mud slide. Run across the terrain and seek high ground.

2

Avoid riverbeds.

Mud and debris flows generally travel in the channels made by rivers, creeks, and streams (though the slide may be wider than the channel), so move away from these areas as quickly as possible.

3

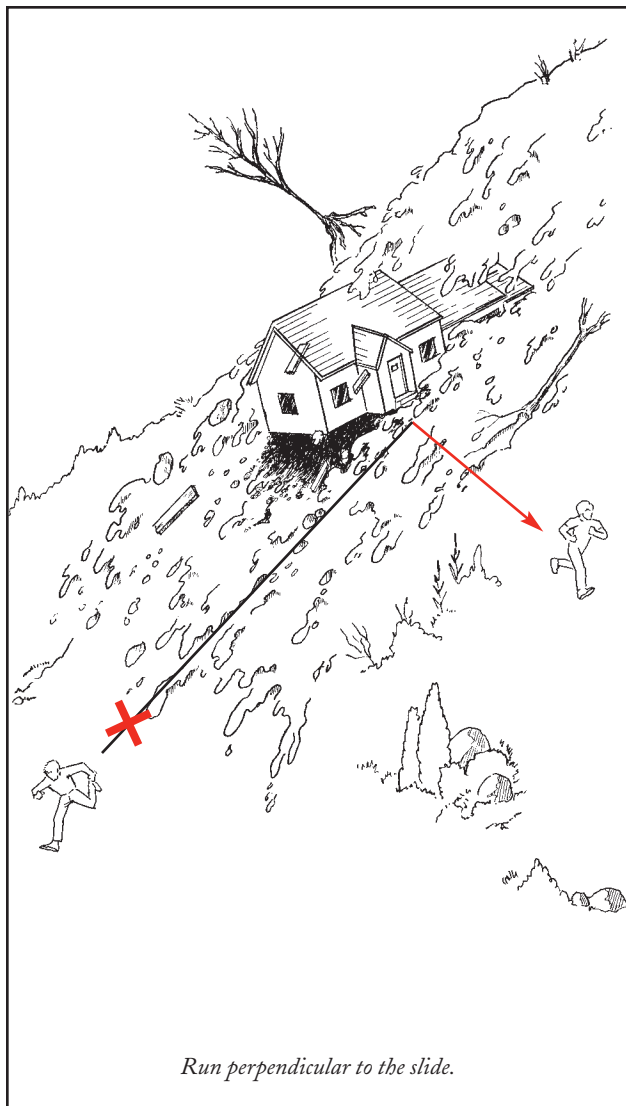
Seek shelter.

If you do not have time to escape the slide, get inside a building—preferably one made of concrete, stone, or brick—that has a foundation. Avoid mobile homes, cabins on concrete pilings, and other structures that are not built into the ground, as they cannot withstand the force of the debris flow and will likely be severely damaged or carried away.

4

Move to an upper floor.

Mud and debris may penetrate windows and walls of lower floors. Get to a second or third story for added protection.



Run perpendicular to the slide.

5

Take cover.

Get under a desk, large table, or other heavy piece of furniture to protect you from falling objects should the slide rock the structure or knock it from its foundation.

HOW TO DETECT AN IMMINENT MUD SLIDE

1

Monitor creeks and streams.

Fast-rising water levels in mountain waterways indicate there have been large amounts of rainfall that can cause mud slides or debris flows. If you notice that streams and creeks are overflowing their banks or have become brown and muddy, expect a slide. Deforested areas and those recently burned are prone to mud slides. Note any barren or blackened land at a higher elevation than your position.

2

Listen.

Mud slides begin with rainwater but quickly pick up dirt, rocks, trees, and other objects, giving the debris flow an unmistakable rumbling sound as it quickly moves downhill. A loud, sustained rumble indicates that a mud slide is approaching.