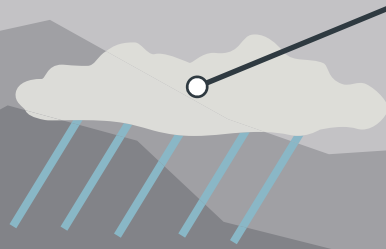


DEBRIS FLOODS

Floods that move large amounts of soil, rocks, and trees

Debris floods can be triggered by heavy rain, rain-on-snow events, and upstream hazards (debris flows, dam breaches)



Debris floods are more likely to occur after periods of prolonged rain or snowmelt, or in years following forest fires

Houses near mountain creeks are at greatest risk



Debris floods can occur over a long period of time (days) and can have several surges (pulses)



Debris floods can burst their banks and flood houses far from the channel



Debris floods can sweep away or bury cars



Debris floods can erode banks and undermine building foundations



Debris floods can destroy roads and bridges



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM DEBRIS FLOODS

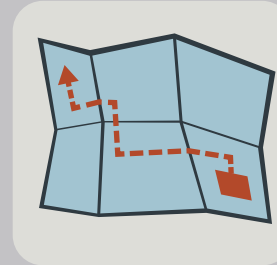
BEFORE

Stay informed



Keep updated with weather advisories, such as heavy rainfall warnings. Consult your local hazard map to learn where the flood hazard zones are located.

Prepare and plan



Prepare an emergency kit for your home, vehicle, and workplace. Know your local flood evacuation routes and emergency shelter locations.

Know the signs



Look/listen for an abrupt increase or decrease in water flow, unusually muddy water, and the sound of cracking trees and rolling boulders.

Protect your property



Store valuables in high places or water-tight containers. Consider flood-proofing measures, such as elevating the first floor, flood walls, erosion protection, sump pumps, etc.

DURING

DECISION: Evacuate



If it is safe to do so, take the flood evacuation route or go to higher ground. If you are able, shut off your gas/electricity and help others evacuate.

DECISION: Shelter



If you are unable or it is unsafe to evacuate, seek shelter on high ground. Avoid basements.

Build sandbag dikes



Sandbag dikes can prevent or lessen damage from overland flooding. Do not attempt to build if you are required to evacuate.

DO NOT go near the bank



Debris floods can quickly erode and undermine banks. If you are near the bank, you put yourself at risk of falling in and being swept away.

DO NOT cross bridges



Debris floods can erode bridge piers and cause bridges to collapse. Bridges affected by debris flooding must be avoided.

DO NOT cross flood waters



Moving water as little as 30 cm deep can quickly sweep you away. Do not attempt to drive or walk through water or debris.

AFTER

Obey road closures



Do not enter areas that are closed-off. There may be emergency repair efforts underway or flooded areas unsafe to the public.

Return only when safe



Do not return home until authorities say it is safe and they have cleared your home of structural, electrical, or other hazards.

Help each other



Floods are stressful and traumatic events. Offer and accept help if you are able. Communities are more resilient when they work together.

Clean up



If your home was flooded, dispose of mouldy items, open doors and windows, and scrub all washable surfaces with a household bleach solution.

NOTES

BGC Engineering Inc. (BGC) prepared this infographic with artwork by Sophia Zubrycky. This infographic depicts some measures that may help to lower but not eliminate certain kinds of risk associated with debris floods. Simply following the measures shown in this infographic does not make it safe to occupy areas at risk of debris floods. Even if the measures shown in this infographic are taken, debris floods may still cause serious personal injury (including death) or property damage. BGC provides no guarantee or warranty of any kind related to the information in this infographic. Persons and entities using or relying on this infographic do so at their own risk. BGC will not be responsible or liable for any loss or damage including any personal injury, death, or property damage that any person or entity may suffer or sustain as a result of the information in this document, or any use of or reliance on this document.

Information on flood preparedness is from PreparedBC's Flood Preparedness Guide.

Photo references:

[Top right] Wildfire. Photo: Shutterstock.

[Top left] Debris flood in Canmore, AB. Photo: THE CANADIAN PRESS/Jonathan Hayward.

[Middle right] Flood damaged homes along Cougar Creek in Canmore, AB. Photo: THE CANADIAN PRESS/Jeff McIntosh.

[Bottom left] Car swept away by debris on the Coquihalla Highway, Hope, BC. Photo: THE CANADIAN PRESS/Jonathan Hayward.

[Bottom right] Bridge damages from debris flood on Hwy. 1, Lytton, BC. Photo: TranBC.