



## PREVENT, GET INFORMED, GET PREPARED

### What is a mudflow?

Mudflows are large flows of water containing rocks, earth, vegetation and other debris that descend through valleys or other water courses. They are caused by intense rainfall in mountainous areas. Loose material (detritus) on the ground is swept into rivers by rainfall runoff, causing a rapid increase in flow and creating a torrent of mud, rocks, trees, etc. This liquid mass can flow rapidly down hillsides or valleys, sweeping away and destroying everything in its path at high speeds. A mudflow can travel many miles from its point of origin, increasing in size as it sweeps up other natural and man-made objects (trees, cars and anything else along the way).

Although precipitation usually falls as snow at high altitudes, mudflows can occur after a period of intense and prolonged rainfall when the zero degree isotherm is higher than normal. The zero degree isotherm is an imaginary line that indicates the altitude at which precipitation will freeze. Above this line precipitation will fall as snow and below it will fall as rain.

### SENAPRED

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### Integral Information and Citizen Assistance System (SIAC)

Citizen Service Office

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[www.senapred.cl](http://www.senapred.cl)

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# PREVENT

get informed, get prepared



## Mudflows



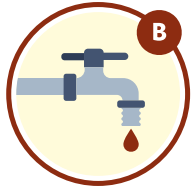


## 1 RECOGNIZING MUDFLOW WARNING SIGNS

If you are in the mountains, stay away from gullies and hollows. The following signs are an indication that a mudflow is likely to occur:



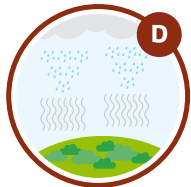
A Sudden rise in water levels and flow.



B River water becomes turbid.



C Heavy and prolonged rainfall.



D Rainfall accompanied by higher than normal temperatures.



E Loud rumbling sound similar to the sound of trucks approaching.



## 2 IN THE EVENT OF A MUDFLOW

Stay informed by listening to a battery-operated radio or other portable device.



3 If you have to evacuate, stay away from water courses.



4 If the mudflow is approaching and you are unable to evacuate, take shelter on the top floor of a reinforced concrete building, on a rooftop or up a sturdy tree.



5 If you are driving and you come to a flooded area, do not attempt to drive through it. Turn back, head for higher ground and stay there.



6 Leave the affected area as further mudflows can occur in the vicinity.



7 Do not return home until officials indicate it is safe to do so.

## GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR EMERGENCY SCENARIOS

- Get familiarized with your surroundings. Find out the hazard potential of where you live or where you are visiting and learn about the emergency plan of the respective local government.
- An emergency does not only affect people- keep in mind that animals and pets are also affected.
- Elaborate and put into practice your Ready-to-Act Family Plan. Visit [www.senapred.cl](http://www.senapred.cl)
- Always have an Emergency Kit on hand. Visit [www.senapred.cl](http://www.senapred.cl)
- Disasters, whether of natural or social origin, do NOT affect us all equally. Disasters have different impacts on the life quality of women, children and men, the elderly, people with disabilities and ethnic groups, among others. Therefore, the vulnerabilities, needs and capabilities of each of these groups must be considered.