

Section 8: Earth Movement (Landslides & Debris Flows)

Landslides are serious geologic hazards that occur in almost every state in the United States of America. Nationally, landslides cause 25 to 50 deaths each year^{hh}. The best estimate of direct and indirect costs of landslide damage in the United States range between \$1 and \$2 billion annuallyⁱⁱ. As a seismically active region, California has had significant number of locations impacted by landslides. Some landslides result in private property damage; other landslides impact transportation corridors, fuel and energy conduits, and communication facilities. They can also pose a serious threat to human life.

Landslides can be broken down into two categories:

- (1) rapidly moving (generally known as debris flows)
- (2) slow moving.

Rapidly moving landslides or debris flows present the greatest risk to human life, and people living in or traveling through areas prone to rapidly moving landslides are at increased risk of serious injury. Slow moving landslides can cause significant property damage, but are less likely to result in serious human injuries.

However, the topography of the City is essentially flat, meaning there is no danger of landslide activity. Therefore, we have not included any mitigation strategies for land movement in our Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.