

**LANDSLIDE STUDIES AND SERVICES DIVISION**  
**NATIONAL BUILDING RESEARCH ORGANISATION**  
**MAJOR EVENTS AND DISASTERS DUE TO LANDSLIDES IN SRI LANKA**

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14 July 1869	The sensation 'rockslip' on the Ceylon Railway. The traffic was interrupted continuously for 19 days, Perera (1925).
19 August 1886	The Black Water (earth) slip between Galboda and Watawala. "The most formidable one known in the history of the Ceylon Railway". The hill moved forward and buried the railway line With debris, 21m high, Perera (1925).
19 August 1888	Numerous earthslips occurred between Peradeniya and Nanuoya, following heavy rainfall, Perera (1925).
15 April 1893	A 'rockslip' occurred on Kadugannawa Incline, the railway line had to be diverted, Perera (1925).
14 October 1895	An earthslip took place on the Railway line at Diyatalawa. The engine driver was killed, Perera (1925).
21 November 1902	Subsidence of the Railway line between Haputale and Diyatalawa. The train services were suspended till 1 January 1903, Perera (1925).
18 April 1903	Large slab of rock fell on the brake van of an UP express at 61m 10 ch., Perera (1925)
6 October 1903	A landslide disaster occurred between Ohiya and Haputale. The engine of the train fell about 16m into the ravine, killing the firemen and cleaner and injuring the driver, Perera (1925).
11 June 1925	Several (earth) slips occurred, for example those at 171m 30ch and 172m, 15ch, Perera (1925).
24/25 December 1957	15 earthslips occurred around Hunasgiriya and Teldeniya in the DRO's Divisions of Uda Dumbara and Pata Dumbara in the Kandy District, Cooray (1958).
1964	Landslides in Kalutara District killed 25 people. The toll at Nawalapitiya rose to 19 people killed.

22 October 1977	26 people were killed at the Gonadika Estate in the Kalutara District due to a landslide, NBRO (1990).
8 June 1982	9 people were killed and 3 houses were destroyed in Patalupana Kanda in Pelmadulla area of the Ratnapura District, NBRO (1990)
2 December 1982	11 people were killed and 10 dwellings were destroyed due to a landslide at Palindagama in the area of Pansaltenna in the Matale District, NBRO (1990).
21/22 May 1984	18 people were killed at different locations in the Kalutara district. Landslides took place at Kudugalakanda, Girikolakanda, Aranbetotakanda, Dartonfield Estate, Dolahena Estate, Kongahakenakanda, Limiyagodakanda and Kajuramala. Antecedent one day rainfall of 500mm was experienced at Matugama, NBRO (1990).
May 1985	10 people were killed in a Landslide at Tiyanbarahena, Malmaduwa G.A's Division Dedigama, Vitanage (1985).
6 January 1986	A number of houses got damaged due to landslides in Ambeliyadda Rupaha and Rupaha areas of the Nuwara Eliya District. Antecedent one day rainfall of 182 mm was recorded, NBRO (1990).
6 January 1986	A landslide occurred at Keenakelewatta in the Badulla District following a rainfall of 299mm in 24 hours prior to the slide, NBRO (1990).
6 January 1986	13 people were killed and two houses were buried under debris due to a landslide in Ketiyapathana Maturata in the Nuwara Eliya District. Antecedent one day rainfall of 266.6 mm was recorded, NBRO (1990), Dahanayake (1986).
6 January 1986	4 people were killed and 4 houses were destroyed due to the landslide at Mandaranuwara in the Nuwara Eliya district. Antecedent one day rainfall of 130mm was recorded, NBRO (1990).
6 January 1986	A landslide was triggered at Kurupanawela in the Nuwara Eliya district which damaged a number of houses. Antecedent one day rainfall of 160 mm was recorded, NBRO (1990)
6 January 1986	A landslide at Madulla in the Nuwara Eliya district damaged several houses, paddy fields, roads and a bridge. Antecedent one day rainfall of 182 mm was recorded, NBRO (1990).

- 7 January 1986 The railway track at Uduwara in the Badulla District was damaged following antecedent rain of 90mm, Symptoms exist for repeat of the event, NBRO (1990).
- 8 January 1986 A building and the power plant of the Watmulla Hospital was damaged due to a landslide at Mulhalkele in the Nuwara Eliya District. Antecedent one day rainfall of 185 mm was recorded, NBRO (1990).
- 9 January 1986 Landslide at Badulusrigama and Kirimetiya in the Badulla District damaged several houses, roads and bridges, NBRO (1990).
- 10 January 1986 Landslides at Katupallegama, Mahakele and Agaratenna in the Badulla District damaged several houses, NBRO (1990).
- 10 January 1986 Marabedda rotational landslide in the Walapane AGA Division damaged houses and paddy-fields. Two earlier landslide events at this location had occurred about 42 years and 75 years ago. Symptoms exist for repeat of the event.
- May 1987 Colombo – Wellawaya Highway was blocked at Beragala by a landslide severing communication completely. NBRO (1990).
- 26 May 1989 2 persons were killed and 4 houses were destroyed due to a landslide involving a railway track at Diyabibile, Talawakele, Nuwara Eliya.
- 30 May 1989 1 person was killed due to a landslide at Hettikande in the Ratnapura District, NBRO (1990), Jinadasa Katupotha (1991).
- 3 June 1989 Death toll due to landslides rose to 14 persons in Mamaduwa, 24 persons in Bambaragala, 1 person in Veelaha and 4 persons in Neluwattukanda of the Kegalle District. One day antecedent rain varied from 62 mm at Malmaduwa to 292 mm at Bambaragala, NBRO (1990), Jinadasa Katupotha. (1991)
- 3 June 1989 8 persons were killed at Paraiyagala in the Florence area of the Nuwara Eliya District. One day antecedent rainfall of 220 mm was recorded, NBRO (1990)
- 3 June 1992 The Watawala earthslide between Galboda and Watawala Railway Stations got revived into a defiant mood, disrupting railway traffic for weeks, NBRO (1992).

- 13 November 1992 A major landslide at Pattipola damaged a railway track, temporarily disrupting the train service beyond Pattipola. The site was identified as troublesome on 5 January 1992 by the NBRO team and SLR was first alerted on 21 January 1992. Symptoms exist for repeat of the event.
- 16 November 1992 Debris flow on the Beragala - Haputlae main road at Viharagala disrupted the road traffic. Beragala - Koslanda road located along the same gully was also affected, NBRO (1992). The threat of rockfall at this location is very high.
- 3 June 1993 The Watawala earthslide got reactivated disrupting the railway traffic in a big way. NBRO (1993).
- 8 October 1993 An earthflow at Beragala - Haputale main road at Beragala junction disrupted the road traffic. The symptoms of recurrence exist, NBRO (1993).
- 21 October 1993 Cutting failure on Beragala - Haputale main road at Beragala junction disrupted the road traffic. The symptoms of recurrence exist. NBRO, 1993.
- 27 October 1993 Rockfall cum debris flow on the Beragala - Wellawaya main road at Koslanda. Disrupted the road traffic and destroyed one house following a intensity rain (108mm) on October 1993. Eighteen houses are still under threat and symptoms of recurrence exist. NBRO (1993).
- 16 December 1993 Rockfall on Passara - Namunukula road at 1.5km away from Namunukula town, disrupted the road traffic for about 10 days. Threat of rockfall exists.
- 17 December 1993 Cutting failure on Hali-Ela-Etampitiya main road at Ambolike disrupted the road traffic for one day and blocked one culvert. Human activities may cause to recurrence the event. NBRO (1993).
- 22 December 1993 Earthslide at Hotel Hilltop in Kandy. NBRO (1993).
- 26 December 1993 Cutting failure on Badulla - Mahiyangana road at Soranatota Junction disrupted the road traffic.
- 28 May 1994 Debris flow at Telisford Estate of Asgangula in Eheliyagoda killed 07 people and destroyed one estate house. In addition about 60m of estate road and culvert were covered by debris. NBRO (1994).

01 August 1994	Landslide at Majakumbura Nawalapitiya destroyed two houses and damaged two houses. Symptoms of recurrence exist. NBRO(1994).
02 August 1994	Debrisflow at North-Pundulu Oya village damaged 4 houses seriously. Symptoms of recurrence exist. NBRO (1994).
10 August 1994	Rockfall on Nawalapitiya - Dolosbage road at 2km away from Nawalapitiya disrupted the road traffic and damaged communication systems. Threat of rockfall is very high. NBRO (1994)
17 April 1995	Landslide at Maussagolla in Pasaara affected about 12 acres of paddy fields destroyed three irrigations channels. Symptoms of recurrence exist. NBRO (1995).
16 June 1995	Cutting failure at Ananda Vidyalaya of Kitulampitiya in Galle severely damaged a partly constructed building. NBRO (1995).
21 June 1995	Landslide at Kumaragama of Balangoda in Ratnapura severely damaged two houses. Symptoms of recurrence exist. NBRO (1995).
08 April 1996	Landslide cum debrisflow at Kabaragala of Aranayake in Kegalle District destroyed four houses and damaged four houses. Symptoms of recurrence exist. NBRO (1996).
22 April 1996	Cutting failure at Dehiowita in Avissawella damaged partly constructed building. Symptoms of recurrence exist. NBRO (1996).
08 June 1996	Landslide at Hoilpitiya of Ratnapura. Symptoms of recurrence exist. NBRO (1996).
July 1998	The landslide and rockfall at Ratnapura Diviyagala. Damaged area were forestry area.
06 March 1999	Ratnapura - Maragahakumbura. Damaged to paddy area.
20 April 1999	Bulathkohupitiya - Thalkumuduwala. One house was fully destroyed.
22 April 1999	Bulthkohupitiya - Galpatha. Threaten on one house.
05 October 1999	Passara Namunukula. Blocked Passara Namunukula road between 17km. point 19km. point.

12 October 1999	Dehiowita. Damaged school building of Dehiowita Tamil School.
13 October 1999	Ayagama - Kalawana Road. Two people were killed and two children narrowly escaped.
13 & 14 Oct. 1999	Sarathpura, Ayagama. A large soil mass and rock debris down along a massive rock area.
15 August 2000	Remuna - Anguruwathota. No damages.
4 February 2001	Madukanda, Katuwana rockfall. A woman (4 months pregnant) and her son (3 years) were dead on the spot.
23 April 2002	Demodara. Eight people injured and two people had died.
24 April 2002	Sarnia Estate, Badulla. Six people injured and five people had died. Two houses were completely destroyed.
05 October 2002	Landslide at Puwakgahawela, Balangoda at 04.10 p.m. Six people killed, one injured. Two houses completely destroyed, one partially damaged. A stretch of about 50m between 163 & 164 km. posts along Balangoda Badulla main road together with bridge badly damaged.
09 November 2002	Bathgoda landslide at Haldumulla. Badulla/Ratnapura main road was closed. 2-3 houses were damaged.
October 2002	Maspotha - Kurunagala landslide, Yaddissa Kanda only. Forest was damaged.