

Catastrophic Landslides during 1998 in Iran

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Landslides are a common and serious problem in the mountainous region of Iran. Naturally occurring landslides are concentrated along the major tectonic zones and regions with heavy precipitation. Most of the failures accord with the two active belts namely Alborz zone and Zagros active belt.

During the year 1998 Abikar and Emamzadeh Ali landslides occurred in Alborz and zagros area respectively. In this paper the characteristics, mechanism, and damages induced by the slides are reported.

Abikar landslide occurred in April in zagros zone, in Chahar mohal Bakhtiari province. The slide was a rock avalanche and buried Abikar village with all of 55 inhabitants, agricultural lands, etc. Precipitation was the main triggering factor for occurrence of the landslide.

Emamzadeh Ali landslide area is located in eastern part of central Alborz. It is along the main road of Tehran to Amol. In May after a period of heavy rain the slide reactivated.

The field geological investigation and structural analysis of the slide shows the concentration of structural discontinuities surfaces in the area. The flanks of the slide are eliminated by structural surfaces.

The work indicates the significance of structural discontinuities in controlling the slide features.