

Climate change seen as cause for mudslide in Switzerland

August 28 2017



An excavator works on the landslide in Bondo, Graubunden in southern Switzerland, Friday, August 25, 2017. Police in eastern Switzerland says some residents of a village pummeled by a rocky mudslide have been authorized to return home, as searchers resumed the hunt for eight missing people. (Gian Ehrenzeller/Keystone via AP)

The effects of climate change are partially to blame for a mudslide through a southeastern village that left eight people missing after a

massive chunk of rock broke off an Alpine mountainside, Switzerland's environmental protection office said Monday.

Federal Office for the Environment director Marc Chardonnens said by telephone that experts were looking into exact causes for the break-off of rock face that tumbled in a gooey sludge into the village of Bondo last week, including possible tectonic and geological factors as well as climatic ones.

Chardonnens said Switzerland must do more to brace for the effects of [climate change](#), citing the "weakening of the permafrost" atop many Alpine peaks as an example.

His office said that the Alpine country has experienced an average temperature increase of 2 degrees Celsius since record-keeping began in 1864, more than twice the world average of 0.9 degrees.

It said [climate](#) change effects include "[urban heat islands](#)" in Swiss cities, localized water shortages, and the instability of mountain flanks like the one that cracked and triggered Wednesday's mudslide in Bondo.

Authorities on Saturday suspended the search for the eight missing.



Local residents drive back to Bondo in Graubunden in southern Switzerland, Friday, Aug. 25, 2017. Police in eastern Switzerland says some residents of the village pummeled by a rocky mudslide have been authorized to return home, as searchers resumed the hunt for eight missing people. (Gian Ehrenzeller/Keystone via AP)



A policeman walks with an inhabitant in Bondo, Graubunden in southern Switzerland, Friday, Aug. 25, 2017. Police in eastern Switzerland says some residents of the village pummeled by a rocky mudslide have been authorized to return home, as searchers resumed the hunt for eight missing people. (Gian Ehrenzeller/Keystone via AP)



A rocky mudslide rushes towards the village of Bondo, Graubunden in southern Switzerland, Friday, Aug. 25, 2017, after it was already hit by one on Wednesday. (Gian Ehrenzeller/Keystone via AP)



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