The fractures within the Cerberus Fossae region of Mars are frequently the targets of new HiRISE images because many of the steep slopes display evidence of mass wasting. “Mass wasting’ is a broad topic dealing with the downhill movement of rocks and debris. Many different types of mass movement fall into the general category of mass wasting, from large landslides and debris avalanches to rockfalls, debris flows and soil creep. On Mars, mass wasting landforms are seen at a range of scales, from giant rock avalanches to tiny slumps and single rockfalls.

This image also shows other impressive aspects of this area – layers within the fractures represent a series of relatively young lava flows, while the surface of the surrounding plains may have been modified by large volumes of water released from the fractures.