



VOLCANO

Volcanic eruptions present a wide range of hazards extending far beyond the immediate vicinity of the volcano. Eruptions release molten lava, hazardous gases, and ballistic projectiles (rocks) that can travel considerable distances. Volcanic ash and acid rain can impact areas hundreds of miles downwind.

Beyond these direct effects, eruptions frequently trigger secondary hazards including landslides, mudflows, flash floods, earthquakes, and even tsunamis. Structures are highly vulnerable to destruction, and personal safety is at significant risk.



Volcanic Preparedness & Response

Volcanic Eruption Preparedness:

- Understand the history of local volcanoes.
- Know the established evacuation zones for your area.
- Avoid areas exhibiting volcanic activity.
- Prepare for accompanying hazards (e.g., mudflows, ashfall).
- Assemble an emergency supply kit including goggles and breathing masks.
- Develop a family evacuation and communication plan.

During a Volcanic Eruption:

- Monitor radio/TV for official information and instructions.
- Military/Government personnel: Report to your command once safe.

If Evacuation is Ordered:

- Evacuate immediately – do not delay.
- If time allows, shut off gas, electricity, and water.
- Take your emergency kit.
- Follow designated evacuation routes.

If Evacuation is NOT Ordered:

- Continue monitoring radio/TV for potential evacuation orders.
- Close and lock all windows and exterior doors.
- Close fireplace dampers.
- Turn off heating/cooling systems and fans.
- Gather emergency supplies.
- Shelter in an interior room without windows, above ground level.

If Trapped Outdoors:

- Seek immediate shelter.
- If caught in a rockfall, protect yourself by curling into a tight ball.
- Be alert for mudflows and flooding near streams.

Protecting Yourself from Ashfall:

- Avoid downwind areas of the volcano.
- Wear long sleeves and pants.
- Protect your eyes with goggles.
- Use a mask or damp cloth over your face to filter ash.
- Avoid driving; keep car engines off.
- Stay indoors if possible.

After a Volcanic Eruption:

- Continue monitoring radio/TV for updates and instructions.
- Stay away from affected areas until authorized to return.
- Exercise caution when entering damaged buildings.

Where to Find Additional Information

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): <https://www.ready.gov/volcanoes>
- U.S. Geological Survey: <http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/index.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/volcanoes/>
- American Red Cross: <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/volcano>
- Ready Army: <https://www.army.mil/ready>

It's up to you. Prepare strong. Get an emergency supply kit with enough supplies for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family and be informed about what might happen. These fact sheets are intended to supplement predetermined plans and policies. Follow state, local, installation and command guidance related to threats and hazards.

