



Are You Ready?

VOLCANOES



A Fact Sheet for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Volcanic eruptions can throw hot rocks for at least 20 miles. Floods, airborne ash, or fumes can spread 100 miles or more. If you live near a known volcano, active or hidden, be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice.

Plan ahead.

Before an eruption takes place, learn about your community warning systems. Be prepared for these disasters that can be generated by volcanoes:

- earthquakes
- flash floods
- landslides and mudflows
- thunderstorms
- tsunamis

Make evacuation plans. Although it may seem safe to stay at home and wait out an eruption, doing so could be very dangerous. The rock debris from a volcano can break windows and set buildings on fire. Stay safe. Follow authorities' instructions and leave the area before the eruption begins. You want to get to high ground away from the eruption. Plan a route out and have a back-up route in mind.

Stock up on supplies, such as:

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Cell phone with text message feature or two-way pager and charger to use in your automobile
- Portable TTY with extra batteries
- Batteries and back-up hearing assistive technology
- Portable battery-operated television with extra batteries and charger to use in your automobile
- NOAA radios with text alerts and visual and/or tactile alerts, or AM/FM portable radio if you can hear it with a neckloop or headset
- Extra contact lenses or eyeglasses
- Paper and pens
- First aid kit
- Food and water (for up to 72 hours)
- Non-electric can opener
- Cash and credit cards
- Work or hiking shoes/boots to protect your feet when walking thru disaster areas
- Goggles and throw-away breathing mask

Develop an emergency communication plan.

In case your household members are separated from one another during an eruption, have a back-up plan where you can meet each other. Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to be a contact person. After the eruption, contact that person by pager or TTY. If you don't have a working TTY or pager, ask a hearing person with a cell phone to call for you. Be sure each household member knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.

During a volcanic eruption:

Follow the evacuation order issued by authorities. Avoid areas that are downwind of the volcano.

Preparing for an eruption:

- Close all windows, doors, and dampers.
- Put all machinery inside a shed, garage or barn.
- Bring animals and livestock into closed shelters.

If outdoors:

- Seek shelter indoors.
- If caught in a rock fall, roll into a ball to protect your head.
- Avoid low-lying areas where poisonous gases and flash floods can be most dangerous.
- If caught near a stream, beware of mudflows.

Protect yourself:

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants.
- Use goggles to protect your eyes.
- Use a dust-mask or hold a damp cloth over your face to help your breathing.
- Turn car or truck engines off.

Stay out of the area.

A blast of a volcano can travel many miles from the mountain. Trying to watch an erupting volcano can be deadly.

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Before an eruption



The exact same location, after an eruption

After the eruption:

Stay away from volcanic ash. Monitor emergency information on your television or the Internet, or if the power is out, via text alerts to your pager, cell phone, your NOAA weather radio or battery-powered captioned television.

When outside:

- Cover your mouth and nose. Throughout history, victims have often died from inhaling ashes.
- Wear goggles to protect your eyes.
- Keep skin covered to avoid irritation or burns.

If you have a respiratory ailment, avoid contact with any amount of ash. Stay indoors until local health officials advise that it is safe to go outside.

Avoid driving in areas with ash. Driving will stir up more ash that can clog engines and stall vehicles. Clear roofs of ashes; ashes are very heavy and can cause buildings to collapse.

Information adapted from materials by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (www.fema.gov). Images courtesy of USDA Forest Service, Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.



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