



# Volcanic Eruptions

**V**olcanic eruptions are extremely difficult to predict. In addition, volcanic eruptions may trigger additional natural emergencies such as lava flows (and debris flows), earthquakes, rock falls and landslides, acid rain, flash floods, fires, and tsunamis. Everyone who lives near a volcano — active or dormant — should be prepared for and ready to respond to a volcanic eruption on short notice.

## How it Might Impact Your Utility Service

- Refer to the appendix “Utilities 101: Importance of Shutting Off & Unplugging.”
- Fill up clean containers, bathtubs, and sinks with water in case you lose service.
- Have electric can openers, batteries for flashlights and radios and backup chargers for phones and other essential devices.



## ALERTS

**The Volcano Notification Service is a free service that sends notification emails about volcanic activity occurring at volcanoes monitored in the United States. You can customize your alerts so that you only receive notifications for the areas you select.**

**Check with your local or state emergency management agency for volcano related alerts.**

## BEFORE A VOLCANIC ERUPTION

- Remember the four steps of emergency planning:
  - R**eview your family preparedness plan.
  - E**stablish a communications plan.
  - A**ssemble a disaster supply kit.
  - D**evelop a household evacuation plan that includes your pets.
- Talk to your family so that everyone knows what to do.
- Have access to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio.
- Keep a pair of goggles and a dust mask for each member of your household in case of falling ash. An N-95 respirator is ideal.
- Talk to your insurance agent to determine what your homeowners’ policy will cover in the event of a volcanic eruption.
- Prepare an emergency kit for your pets.
- Put livestock in an enclosed area.
- Plan ahead to take pets with you and determine which emergency shelters accept pets and make other arrangements for your pets if necessary.

- Make a list of items to bring inside your home in the event of falling ash. Determine which items can be covered if you can't bring them inside and gather those supplies.
- Fill your vehicle's tank with gas. If no vehicle is available, make arrangements with friends or family for transportation or follow authorities' instructions on where to obtain transportation.

## **DURING A VOLCANIC ERUPTION**

- Listen to a NOAA weather radio or portable battery operated radio or television for updated information.
- Follow any evacuation orders issued by authorities and implement your emergency plan.
- Be prepared to evacuate, and do so immediately if it becomes necessary.
- Avoid areas downwind and river valleys downstream from the volcano.
- If indoors, close all windows, doors, and dampers.
- Bring any pets or livestock into closed shelters.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants and if necessary, wear goggles and a mask.
- If you are outdoors:
  - Seek shelter indoors if possible.
  - Stay out of designated restricted zones.
  - Avoid low-lying areas, areas downwind of the volcano, and river valleys downstream of the volcano. Debris and ash will be carried by wind and gravity and both pose hazards.
  - If caught in a rock fall, roll into a ball to protect your head.
- If you are caught in falling ash:
  - Wear a dust mask designed to protect against lung irritation from small particles.
  - Protect your eyes by wearing goggles. Wear eyeglasses, not contact lenses.
  - Keep as much of your skin covered as possible.

## **AFTER A VOLCANIC ERUPTION**

- Continue listening to a NOAA weather radio or TV for instructions and updated information.
- Remain inside your home until officials declare it is safe to leave.
- If evacuated, only return when authorities say it is safe to do so.
- When outside, avoid volcanic ash fall. Cover your skin, nose, eyes, and mouth.
- Avoid making phone calls except in serious emergencies.

- Inspect your home:
  - Check for damage to walls, the roof, the foundation, the electrical system, and water lines.
  - Take photos of the damage to your home and its contents for insurance purposes.
  - Notify your insurance company if your home is damaged.
- Wear protective clothing, including long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and sturdy shoes, and be cautious.
- Clear your roof of ashfall as soon as it is safe to do so. Ash can cause buildings to collapse, especially if made wet by rain. Be extremely cautious when working on a roof.