

Preparing for Volcanoes

Volcanoes generate a wide variety of phenomena that can alter the earth's surface and atmosphere endangering people and property.

Volcanic dangers include not only an eruption of a mountain and associated lava flows, but also ashfall and debris flows. If you are near a mountain range, be familiar with the following.

Before a volcanic eruption:

- Plan ahead. Have emergency supplies, food and water stored.
- Plan an evacuation route away from rivers or streams that may carry mud or debris flow.
- Keep a battery operated radio available at all times.
- If there is an eruption predicted, monitor the radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio for evacuation information.
- Follow the advice given by the authorities.

After a volcanic eruption:

- Evacuate if advised to do so.
- Be prepared to stay indoors and avoid downwind areas if ashfall is predicted.
- Do not approach the eruption area.
- Be aware of stream and river channels when evacuating.
- Move toward higher ground if mudflows are approaching.

Be prepared for ashfall generated from volcanoes:

- Have dust masks available.
- Close doors, windows and dampers. Place damp towels at door thresholds and other draft sources.
- Put stoppers in tops of your drainpipes.
- Protect dust-sensitive electronics.
- Keep roofs free of ash in excess of 4 inches.
- Remove outdoor clothing before entering a building.
- Wash vegetables from the garden before eating.
- If ash is in the water, let it settle before drinking.
- Use a battery-operated radio to receive information.
- Keep children and pets indoors.
- Minimize travel - ash may be harmful to your vehicle.
- Frequently change oil and air filters in your automobile.