



Are you VolcanoREADY? Learn how to have a volcano hazard kit!

People living in communities near the Cascade volcanoes find these mountains to be beautiful and they often forget about related hazards. While they are not currently in eruption, these volcanoes will erupt again. On average, two eruptions occur per century here. When volcanoes erupt, they may disrupt the lives of everyone downstream (lahars), and downwind (volcanic ash). Everyone in the region is impacted, either directly, or by the loss of utilities and community services. You can make yourself VolcanoREADY by knowing whether you live in or near a hazard zone, and making a plan with your family.

What to do before a volcano is active:

- Learn about your risk from: lahar, ash, or being isolated.
- Learn about the lahar hazards in your community and evacuation routes.
- Register to receive local emergency notifications, and USGS volcano notification updates.
- Have supplies to shelter-in-place
- Have a grab and go kit ready for evacuation notices.

Supplies for a 2-3 day volcano grab and go kit should include the following:

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Emergency food and water
- Essential medicines
- Sturdy shoes
- Eye protection (goggles) from ash
- Battery-powered radio
- N-95 face mask, respiratory protection from ash
- Seasonal clothing



During notification of volcanic activity or eruption

- Monitor radio, television, twitter or other news source until you are told all is safe, or whether you should take further action.
- In areas at risk from lahars, you might be instructed to evacuate. Move off the valley floor as instructed by officials.
- Follow the instructions of local officials.
- If you are in a safe place, stay away from affected areas to allow officials to do their jobs.

Take the following actions for sheltering from ash:

- Cascade volcanic ash is not toxic but can cause distress for people with respiratory problems.
- To protect yourself while you are outdoors or while you are cleaning up ash that seeped indoors, use an N-95 disposable respirator (also known as an “air purifying respirator”)
- Control ash entering your home or business. Close and lock windows, outside doors, and fireplace damper. Place damp towels at door thresholds and other draft sources. Tape drafty windows. Turn off all heating and air conditioning systems and fans.
- Protect sensitive electronics and do not uncover until the environment is totally ash-free.
- Disconnect drainpipes/downspouts from gutters to stop drains clogging, but allowing ash and water to empty from gutters onto the ground.
- Listen to officials for guidance about driving during moderate to severe ashfall.
- Shelter- in-place for volcanic ash *does not* require precautions as severe as for hazardous material spills.
- Check availability of your emergency supplies and make sure household members know their location
- Make sure the radio, television, and cell phone are operating. Have back up batteries or chargers.
- Keep pets and livestock under shelter.
- Check in with your emergency contact (short phone calls and texting are best). Remember that telephone equipment may be overwhelmed or damaged during an emergency.

Resources for preparing before an event:

- Identify your location in relation to lahar hazards.
 - https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/vsc/multimedia/cvo_hazards_maps_gallery.html
- Know where and how to get emergency information. Sign up for Thurston Community Alert <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/em/Alerts/index.htm>
- Sign up for USGS Volcano Notification Service: <https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/vns2/subscribe>
- USGS Cascades Volcano Website: <https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/cvo/>
- Washington and Oregon have great information on hazards and preparedness.
 - www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/geology/geologic-hazards/volcanoes-and-lahars
 - www.disasterreadywashington.com
- USGS information on ash and ash removal: https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanic_ash/households.html

