Newspapers In Education and USGS Present:

Volcano Hazards and Preparedness

May is Volcano Preparedness Month in Washington State

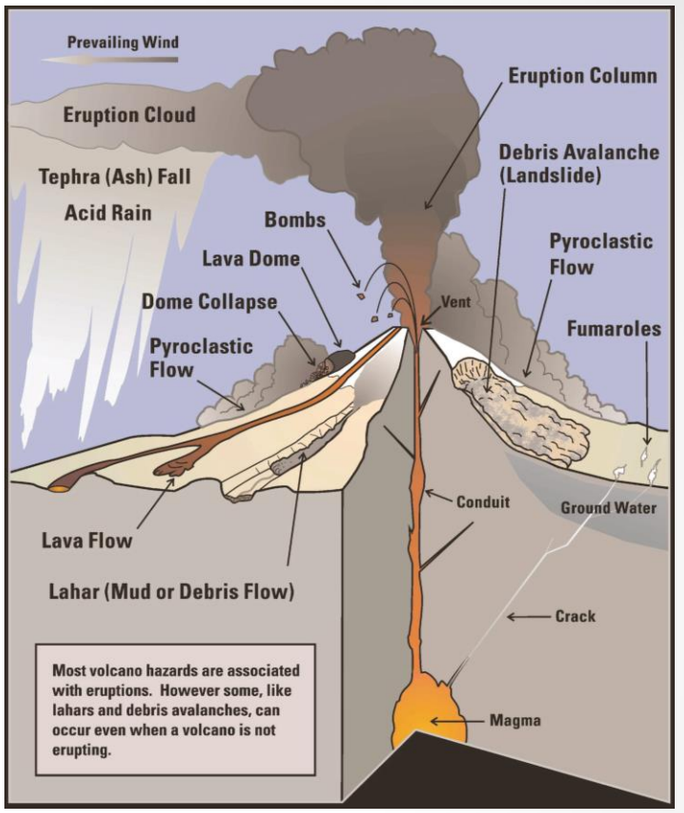
Washington has five active volcanoes that pose hazards. Becoming knowledgeable about all hazards -- both close to, and far from volcanoes, will help in planning your response to the next eruption in the Cascades.

Did You Know?

- **Cascade volcanoes will erupt again—maybe within our lifetime**. The recent record of several eruptions per century suggests that we, our children, or our grandchildren could witness a Cascade volcanic eruption. Prepare and be ready.
- **Lahars are the most significant hazard from ice-clad volcanoes—more so than lava flows.** Water mixes with loose rock to make lahars (volcanic mudflows) that sweep tens of miles down valleys from the volcano. Even in the absence of an eruption, a large landslide can transform into a far-traveled lahar. Be ready to move off affected valley floors if lahar warnings are issued.
- **Ash fall can affect communities near and far from a volcano.** If ash is falling, stay inside until the ash fall passes and listen for instructions about ash clean-up.
- **Volcanoes give us warning signs when they are re-awakening.** Scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey and the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network study and monitor the volcanoes to better understand their behavior and hazards, and advise officials and the public.

Learning Activities

- Keep informed. Register for the Volcano Notification Service (volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/cvo/cvo_volcano_updates.html) and read Hot Stuff current events (volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/cvo/).
- Track earthquake activity on the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network (pnsn.org).
- View simplified hazard maps for Cascade volcanoes (volcanoes.usgs.gov/vsc/multimedia/cvo_hazards_maps_gallery.html).
- Learn how to address hazards before, during, and after an eruption (volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/cvo/how_to_prepare.html).
- Watch video clips about volcanoes and volcano scientists at work (volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/cvo/web_shorts_videos.html).
- Try hands-on experiments *Lahar in a Jar!* and *Volcano Fan Club* and other in-class activities (vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/Outreach/Publications/GIP19/activities.html).



Download the Geologic Hazards at Volcanoes poster at pubs.usgs.gov/gip/64/. For more information on Cascade volcanoes, visit the U.S. Geological Survey-Cascades Volcano Observatory at volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/cvo/. Find preparedness information and resources at the Emergency Management Division emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep_infohouse.shtml#v.

Preparing schools and communities for future volcanic eruptions will keep everyone safe.

Some people feel worried or scared when they think about what might happen in an emergency. But there are ways to overcome those feelings by developing coping skills. Preparing for an emergency BEFORE it happens strengthens your ability to cope. Share your knowledge and help others.

Ready. Assess whether you live, work, play or go to school in a volcano-hazard zone. Make a plan of action for the next eruption and assemble your standard emergency supplies. Tell others about your plan.

Set. During an event, stay informed. Listen to official sources and be ready to act.

Go!

When a lahar warning is issued, move off affected valley floors by vehicle or on foot.

If you are safe from lahars and volcanic ash is falling, seek shelter in a building or vehicle until the ash fall passes.

USGS science for a changing world | Washington Emergency Management Division | PNSN | USDA

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