



GET READY!

VOLCANOES

In the United States, potentially active volcanoes mostly exist in Hawaii, Alaska, and the Pacific Northwest. When a volcano erupts, lava, poisonous gases, and flying rock and ash can travel hundreds of miles downwind. The intense heat of lava and ash flows causes severe fire hazards. The main danger area around a volcano is approximately a 20-mile radius.

Before

- Know your community's warning systems, disaster plans, and evacuation routes.
- Add extra safety goggles and something to cover your mouth and nose to your emergency supplies kit.

During

- Follow the evacuation order.
- Be aware of landslides or mudflows, which can move faster than you can walk or run. Mudflows are more common near stream channels and with prolonged heavy rain. Look upstream before crossing a bridge and do not cross if a mudflow is approaching.
- Avoid river valleys and low-lying areas.
- Help neighbors who may need assistance.
- If you have a respiratory ailment, avoid breathing any amount of ash.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Use safety goggles and wear eyeglasses instead of contacts.
- Use a dust mask or hold a damp cloth to your face.
- Stay away from areas downwind of the volcano.
- Drive through heavy ash fall only if absolutely necessary. If you have to drive through heavy ash fall, keep your speed to 35 miles per hour or less.
- If you are unable to evacuate, stay inside with windows, doors, and ventilation systems closed until the ash settles.

After

- Clear heavy ash from flat or low-pitched roofs and rain gutters.
- Avoid running car or truck engines, which can stir up volcanic ash, resulting in clogged engines, damaged moving parts, and stalled vehicles.

