

Increased Volcanic Activity

INFORMATION NOTE No. 1

AS OF 7:00 PM (AST) ON DECEMBER 29, 2020

Synopsis of Volcanic Event

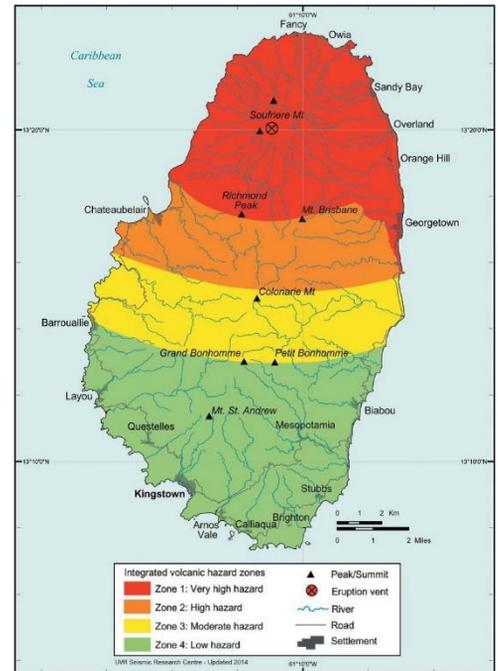
LOCATION:

LA SOUFRIÈRE VOLCANO, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

PRESENT ACTIVITY:

EFFUSIVE ERUPTION OBSERVED, ONGOING FUMAROLIC ACTIVITY, FORMATION OF A VOLCANIC DOME, CHANGES TO CRATER LAKE, SEISMIC ACTIVITY

ALERT LEVEL: ORANGE



Update

The alert level for the La Soufrière volcano in St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been elevated to **Orange** because of increased activity at the site. Monitoring systems, satellite imagery and visual observations have confirmed increased seismic and fumarolic activity, strong gas emissions, emergence of a satellite dome on the SE of the existing volcanic dome and changes to the crater lake. An effusive eruption within the crater, with visible gas and steam, was also observed on 29th December 2020.

A team of scientists from the Seismic Research Centre (SRC) of the University of the West Indies (UWI) is scheduled to arrive in St. Vincent within the next 24 hours to conduct additional assessments.

An Orange Level alert means that there is highly elevated seismicity or fumarolic activity, or both, or other highly unusual symptoms. Eruptions may occur with less than 24 hours notice. Monitoring systems are continuously manned and there is regular visual inspection of potential vent areas as well as continuous ground deformation and hydrothermal monitoring.

NO Evacuation Orders have been issued

National Actions

The National Emergency Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines was convened on 29th December 2020 to receive updates on the status of the volcano, to inform the continued execution of the national volcano emergency plan. No evacuation order has been given but residents in the surrounding communities have been urged to avoid visiting the volcano and to be prepared to evacuate should it become necessary.

Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Actions

The CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CU) continues to operate in accordance with the standard operating procedures (SOPs) of the Regional Coordination Plan (RCP) which includes maintaining contact with the threatened states and Regional Response Mechanism (RRM) partners.

The CDEMA CU has been in contact with the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to provide support as needed. The CU will continue to monitor the situation in collaboration with the UWI Seismic Research Centre, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines [NEMO](#) and the national disaster management offices of Participating States in close proximity to the volcano and will provide updates to the RRM partners as necessary.

The CDEMA CU urges all Participating States and members of the RRM to monitor the progress of this volcanic event. The public should continue to monitor the releases from their local national disaster management office.

See below for some volcano safety tips from the [UWI Seismic Research Centre](#):

