Preparing ourselves in case of wolcanic

Preparedness measures in case of volcanic eruptions

Volcanic eruptions occur when the magma (solid, liquid and gaseous material at high temperature) from the inside of the Earth comes out to the surface. A first general classification of volcanic eruptions distinguishes between effusive and explosive (with magma fragmentation into shreds of various sizes called pyroclastic rocks). There are various types of volcanic eruptions, each of which may pose different dangerous phenomena: I. lava flow; 2. fall of coarse material (volcanic bombs and blocks of various sizes); 3. fall and deposit of fine material (ashes and lapilli);

4. pyroclastic flows; 5. gaseous emissions; 6. mudflows. The most dangerous among these phenomena are pyroclastic flows and mudflows. The length of volcanic eruptions may vary from a few hours to tens of years (the Kilauea Volcano in the Hawaii Islands has been erupting since 1986). Unlike other natural phenomena such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions are usually foreseeable, thanks to distinctive precursory occurrences that can be detected by monitoring networks created for such purpose.

What to do... if you live or find yourself in a volcanic-area

Inquire about the emergency plan of your municipality

In order to act adequately and carry out possible evacuation operations.



During the eruption obey the prohibition to enter the affected areas

Although eruptions seem spectacular and generate curiosity, these places are dangerous.





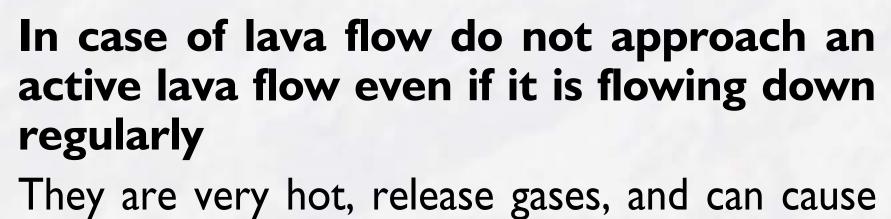
Follow exslusively the instructions indicated by civil protection authorities

During critical situations unfounded news may easily be given, thus hindering the rescue intervetion.



It is dangerous to go near craters even when the volcano is not active

Sudden explosive phenomenon and/or gaseous emissions are always possible.



They are very hot, release gases, and can cause falling incandescent rocks and sudden explosions.



Even after the eruption has ended do not walk on the surface of a lava flow

The flows retain their heat for years.





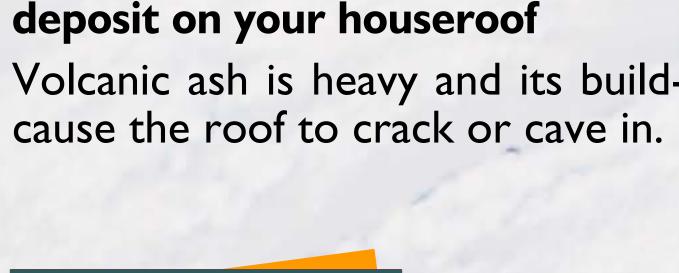
In case of falling "volcanic bombs" inquire whether the area where you are is subject to falls of coarse material

It is a highly destructive phenomenon for buildings which cannot therefore constitude a shelter.

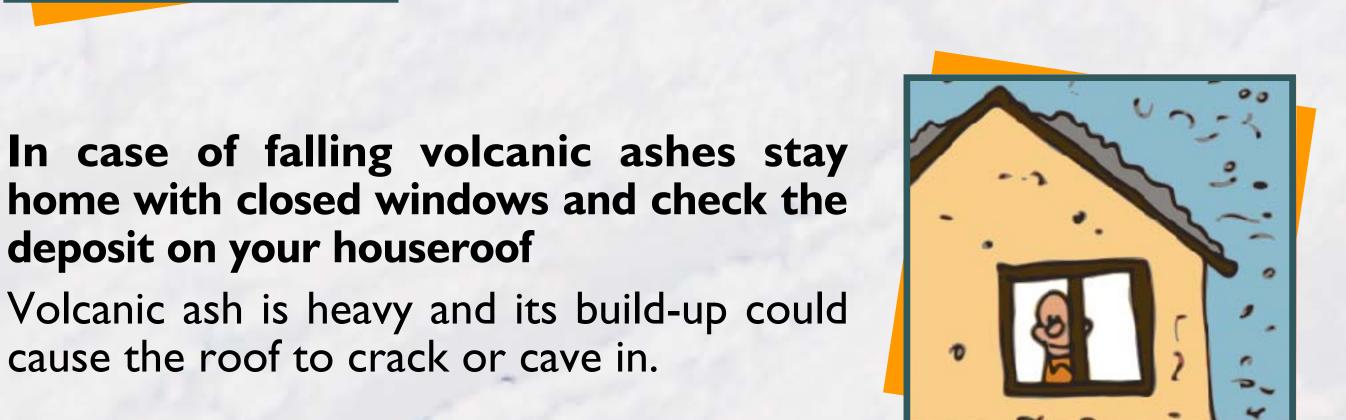


Examine the emergency plan of your municipality and get ready for a possible evacuation

The preventive departure from the affected area is the only possible defence.



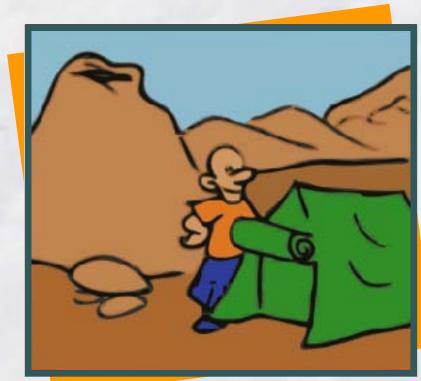
Volcanic ash is heavy and its build-up could



Outdoors wear a respirator and protective glasses and drive carefully

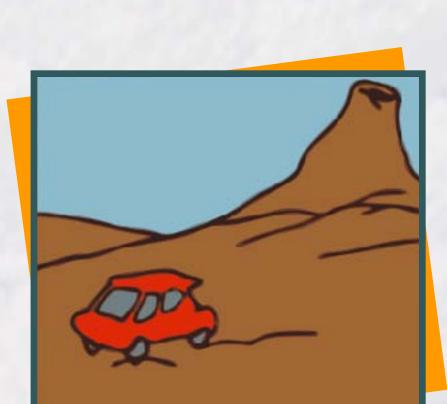
Ashes provoke trouble to the respiratory system and to the eyes, and causes the road surfaces to become slippery.





In case of gaseous emissions avoid stopping or camping in volcanic areas and do not enter underground places

Carbon dioxide is an odourless gas heavier than air and is lethal in high concertation.



Do not think that you are safe if you

stop far from the crater Gaseous emissions can reach even distant areas.



The only defence from this type of flow is the preventive departure from the area at risk.



In case of mud flows follow the civil protection plan which pinpoints the waiting areas and move away from the areas at risk

Fine ashes can trigger dangerous mudflows that pour along watercourses.

