

COTOPAXI VOLCANO: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROTOCOL

Office of International Programs (OPI)

Universidad San Francisco de Quito

Purpose

This document was developed to help prepare Office of International Programs (OPI) staff, international students at USFQ and other stakeholders to mitigate the risks involved in a volcanic emergency and to define the actions to be taken in the case of increased activity or eruption of Cotopaxi volcano. It is aligned with the general USFQ guidelines and offers supplementary planning relevant to the circumstances of international students at USFQ.

Risks

In the event of an eruption, mud and rock flows known as "lahars" travel rapidly down the gullies of a volcano with great destructive capacity. Volcanic Ash Fall (A "Hard Rain" of Abrasive Particles) can be extensive, affecting crops, livestock pasture, machinery, interrupting mobility and suspending air traffic, collapsing vulnerable roofs, clogging sewage systems and contaminating water bodies, causing respiratory effects, among other issues.

General Preparation

1. Include current government alert level, information on protocols and the roles and contact details of key actors (SIME in orientations with students and host families).
2. Maintain host families and students informed of relevant updates from Ecuadorian government, their embassies and the USFQ.
3. Require third-party excursion providers to prepare and advise us of their own emergency response protocols.
4. Ask embassies to keep OPI updated via emailing regarding any recommendations or protocols in place for their citizens in preparation for or during an emergency.
5. As a precaution for all types of emergencies, and to ensure that students can be contacted and located, students are required to always have the SIM card provided to them by the OPI in a charged phone on their person.

Official Sources for Alerts and Information

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|--|---|
| <u>National Government Risk Management Service</u> Website: https://www.gestionderiesgos.gob.ec/ Twitter: @Riesgos_Ec Facebook: Riesgos Ecuador Instagram: @riesgos_ec | <u>Geophysics Institute</u> Website: https://www.igepn.edu.ec/ Twitter: @IGecuador Facebook: IGEPNecuador Instagram: @igepnecuador |
| <u>Municipal Government</u> Website: https://www.quito.gob.ec/index.php/municipio/217-cotopaxi | |

Yellow Alert Actions

The Yellow Alert is the government's initial, precautionary notice of a threat.

- OPI staff asks host families, and those students living independently, to present a family response plan including a map of the home's location, evacuation routes, and nearest safe meeting points:
https://www.quito.gob.ec/documents/plan_familiar.pdf
- It is also recommended that students identify safe zones on their daily routes. The risk map and safe zones provided by the municipal authorities can be found at the following link:
http://www.quito.gob.ec/documents/mapa_cumbaya_tumbaco_vcotopaxi.pdf
- Families and students are advised to prepare emergency backpacks (see Annex 1).
- Students are reminded to keep their passports; credit cards; cash; etc. in a safe and easily accessible location and to use the SIM card provided by the OPI.
- A Cotopaxi Alert WhatsApp group is established for OPI staff, families and students.

Orange Alert Actions

The Orange Alert warns of a possible imminent eruption.

- At USFQ, daily activities continue as usual. However, international students are asked to carry their emergency backpacks with them (See Annex 1). They should also have the following items on hand at all times:
 - N95 Masks
 - Protective goggles
 - 2 bottles of water
- Students and host families must notify OPI of any student travel plans. Excursions as well as independent travel plans to areas identified as danger zones must be cancelled.
- OPI communicates with students, USFQ leadership, host families, third-party service providers, embassies, sending universities/organization and local authorities to coordinate support for students.
- Students will be assigned a specific member of the OPI team who will be their main contact for further guidance support in case of an escalation to Red Alert.
- Participation in meetings, drills and training on volcanic eruptions.

Red Alert Actions

The Red Alert is declared when Cotopaxi is erupting.

- Students should report their location and safety status to OPI staff. If they are accompanied by an OPI representative on an excursion outside of Quito, they should contact this individual; otherwise, they should contact their designated OPI Red Alert contact. OPI staff will work to confirm the whereabouts and status of their designated group of students and coordinate further guidance and support as needed.
- If at home, students follow the family response plan.
- If students are on Cumbaya campus:

- Academic and administrative activities on campus will be suspended and students should follow instructions from OPI and other USFQ staff.
 - USFQ alarms will be activated during the change from orange to red alert.
 - Once a red alert has been issued, instructions will be given to evacuate the university in an orderly manner, the Paseo San Francisco parking lot will be opened for easy evacuation.
 - If evacuation is not possible, or the students' accommodations are not within walking distance, they should go to the "Safe Zones" of the USFQ as identified in the campus map indicating "*Zonas de Seguridad*" (See Annex 2). OPI staff members will then coordinate pickups or transport to their own homes when possible or, when not, students will be accompanied to a temporary residence, one of ten host family houses within walking distance of the campus.
- If students are outside of Quito and in a secure area, they should remain there until notified that it is safe to return. OPI can provide up to \$100 towards any costs, such as extra nights of accommodations, incurred by students who are outside of Quito.
 - In case the volcanic eruption produces ash fall, face masks and protective goggles should be worn.
 - All individuals should stay informed through the official channels; having reached a secure location, they should not return home until authorities confirm that it is safe to do so.

Annex 1

Emergency Backpack

Each person should have an individual backpack. Below is a table of items that should be included in the backpack:

| Botiquín | Útiles de Aseo | Equipos/Varios |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| N95 Masks | Soap | Protective goggles/glasses |
| Latex gloves | Toothpaste | Battery-operated flashlight |
| Gauze | Toothbrush | Candles |
| Scissors | Toilet paper | Matches |
| Tape | Antibacterial gel | Warm clothing |
| Cotton | Sanitary Pads | Blanket |
| Saline solution | | Food and water for at least 3 days. |
| Band-Aids | | Comfortable shoes |
| Bandages | | Canopener or penknife |
| Any Prescribed Medication | | Copy of keys |
| | | Cash |

Annex 2

ZONAS DE RIESGO Y SEGURIDAD POR ERUPCIÓN DEL COTOPAXI 2022 CAMPUS USFQ

Zonas de Riesgo

- Galileo: planta baja área de Registro y gradas de acceso
- Newton: Hall de Química N103 – N104
- Einstein: Pasillo planta baja E104 – E105
- Restaurante La Pirámide
- Halls de Tesorería
- Da Vinci: segundo piso

Zonas de Seguridad

- Hall principal
- Biblioteca
- Edif. Eugenio Espejo: Calderón de La Barca
- Maxwell
- Aristóteles
- Sócrates
- Lao Tse
- Hannah



ZONAS DE RIESGO Y SEGURIDAD POR ERUPCIÓN DEL COTOPAXI 2022

EDIFICIO HAYEK

Zonas de Riesgo

- Planta baja: área de gradas eléctricas, hall y ascensores
- Restaurante Ápice

Zonas de Seguridad

- PLANTA BAJA
- Teatro Shakespeare
 - Biblioteca Hayek
- SEGUNDA PLANTA
- Student Union

