



Emergency protocols: Volcanoes

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Emergency protocols: Volcanoes

Ecuador and Galapagos Islands have 27 potentially active volcanoes. Most of these are continental, Galapagos is home to 7 volcanoes. The Office of International Programs (OPI) at Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ) would like to inform all of our international students and their sending universities/organizations of the following information:

- While we cannot predict when a volcanic eruption will occur or the level of intensity
- All the Volcanoes are permanently monitored by Instituto Geofísico del Ecuador (IGM).
- In the event that the activity of the volcano presents a significant variation; The Ecuadorian government will declare a
 - **Yellow Alert**
 - **Orange Alert:** all citizens should prepare for an imminent threat of volcanic eruption. During this period, daily life will not be affected and classes will continue as usual.
 - However, OPI recommends that all international students carry the following items in their backpacks daily:
 - Passport copy
 - Face Mask (N-95 mask recommended for protection from ash fall)
 - Goggles
 - Warm sweater or jacket
 - Cereal bars / snack
 - Bottled Water
 - Cash
 - Antibacterial gel
 - **Red Alert:** The Ecuadorian government will declare this one if some volcanoes erupt
 - In case it happens during regular class hours, **OPI recommends that all international students stay inside of the University in the same place where they were informed of the eruption.**
 - Classes will be suspended and the parking lot will be closed so that no one can leave the campus by car.
 - The Ecuadorian government will most likely close highways, so it will be chaotic for drivers and closing the parking lot is a way to prevent accidents. Students can leave by foot, but this is not recommended.

Before volcanic eruption occurs:

1. Staying informed about your community's risk and response plans
2. Have a basic emergency kit prepared, ask to your host family (if it applies)
3. Keep with you Emergency card and passport copy



During volcanic eruption occurs:

1. Listen to a local station on portable, battery-operated radio or television for update information and instructions
2. Follow evacuation orders
3. If indoors: close all window, doors, and dampers to keep volcanic ash From entering
4. If outdoors: Stay out of designated restricted zones
 - a. Seek shelter indoors if possible
 - b. Avoid low – lying areas. Debris and ash will be carried by wind and gravity
5. Stay in areas where you will not be further exposed to volcanic eruption hazards

After volcanic eruption occurs:

1. Let OPI know all the time you´re safe
2. If evacuated, return only when authorities say it is safe to do so
3. Stay indoors and away from volcanic ashfall areas
 - a. Wear a dust mask
 - b. Wear goggles and eyeglasses (not contact lenses)
 - c. Keep as much of your skin covered as possible
4. Continue to listening to local news and OPI information by official media (cellphone, mails)
5. Check for injuries. Do not try to move people who are seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger of death or further injury.
 - a. If you must move an unconscious person, first make sure to stabilize the person’s neck and back. Then call for help immediately. Keep the injured person warm with blankets or clothing, but take care to ensure that they do not overheat.
 - b. Do not give any water or liquids to an unconscious person.
6. Off Campus location: Students who are not on campus during the volcanic eruption (Red alert) should remain in a secure off-campus location and wait for an assessment from the USFQ Risk Management Committee regarding building safety.
 - a. An announcement will made regarding when regular activities, including classes, will resume.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE NUMBERS:

Emergency number in Quito: 0980834444

Emergency number in the Galápagos: 0981308687

National Emergency Line: 911

If any international student or foreign university/organization has a question or concern about Mt. Cotopaxi, please visit us at Casa Corona 202 or send us an email at opi@usfq.edu.ec.