



## NEOC Situation Update

Response Name	Ambrym Volcanic Activity
Situation Report	01
Date	16:00 19 December 2018
Reporting period	15/12/2018 – 18/12/2018
Provinces affected	Malampa
Attachment(s)	N/A
NEOC Status	Operational

### Situation Overview

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- On Saturday 16 December the VMGD raised the Volcanic Alert Level for Ambrym volcano to Level 3, as the volcano is in the minor eruption state.
- VMGD observations and seismic data analysis confirm an ongoing emission of ash and gas from eruptive vents from Benbow and Marum craters and ongoing localized earthquake activity in the south eastern part of Ambrym. This earthquake activity is related to the current volcano eruption. See <https://www.vmgd.gov.vu/vmgd/index.php/geohazards/volcano/alert-bulletin#benbowMarum>
- The National Disaster Management Office, in conjunction with Malampa Province, is coordinating a rapid assessment on the ground. Malampa Province has deployed an impact and needs assessment team, focussing on the main sectors such as Health, Agriculture, Water and Infrastructure at the most affected areas (North East and South East sides of the island). The National Emergency Operations Centre and VMGD have deployed an assessment team to assess and install the volcanic monitoring instrument and conduct rapid scientific assessment on ground.
- Ash fall and gases have been observed primarily over the North Eastern side of the island.
- Earthquake activity has caused cracks on buildings and land in some areas, especially in the South East Ambrym area. Roads, water supplies, buildings and gardens have been damaged.
- The main affected village in the South East Ambrym is Pamal. Residents of Pamal have moved to Ule School. There are 3 evacuation centres currently in use – the Presbyterian Church, Ule School dormitories and the School football field (in tents and under tarpaulins).
- The 3 main immediate priority needs for the affected people are shelter, food and water.
- TVL and Digicel network coverage is not good in the affected area
- Ule airstrip has developed a fault line beside the runway.

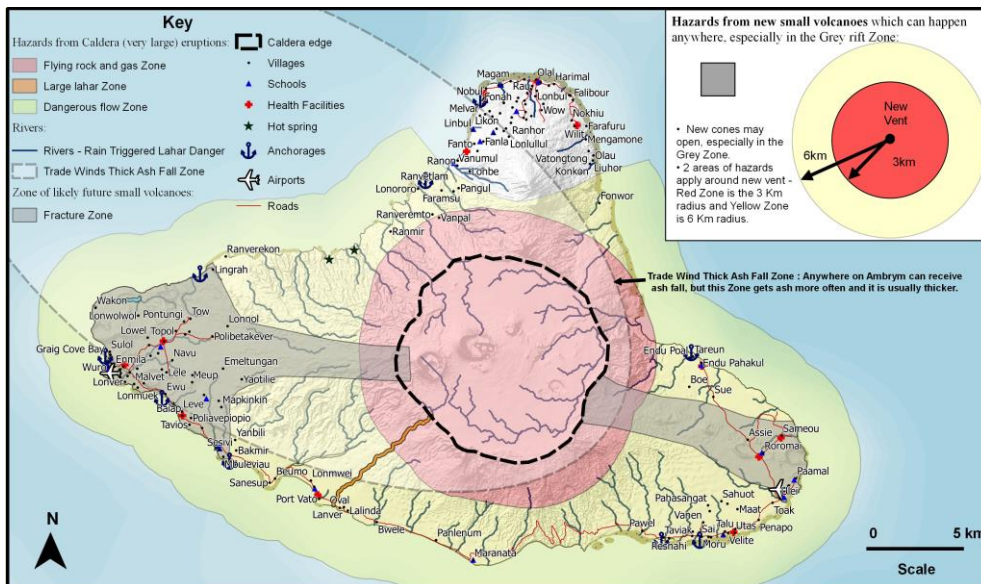


Image source: Ambrym long-term background volcanic hazards map – VMGD - [https://www.vmgd.gov.vu/vmgd/images/geo-media/docs/ambrym\\_background.pdf](https://www.vmgd.gov.vu/vmgd/images/geo-media/docs/ambrym_background.pdf)

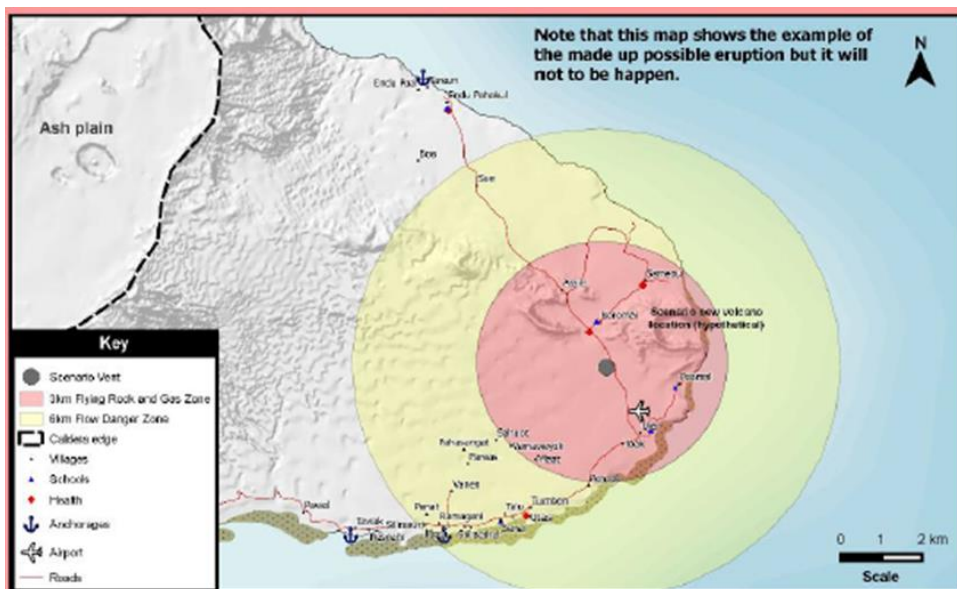


Image source: Ambrym East Flank Future Scenarios map – VMGD

## General Coordination

- The onsite emergency operations center (EOC) in Lakatoro is the primary coordination hub for operations in Malekula. Coordination meetings are held daily.

## Further Information

**VMGD Volcano Update:** [www.vmgd.gov.vu](http://www.vmgd.gov.vu)  
**NDMO:** [ndmo.gov.vu](http://ndmo.gov.vu)  
**Prepared by:** NDMO Information Management Unit  
**Approved by:** Officer in Charge, National Disaster Management Office  
**Next Sitrep:** TBD