



NEOC Situation Update

Response Name	Ambrym Volcanic Activity
Situation Report	02
Date	10:00 21 December 2018
Reporting period	19/12/2018 – 20/12/2018
Provinces affected	Malampa
Attachment(s)	N/A
NEOC Status	Operational

Situation Overview

- On Saturday 15 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 NDMO and VMGD have deployed an assessment team to conduct rapid scientific assessment on ground.
- Ash fall and gases have been reported primarily over the North Eastern side of the island.
- Earthquake activity has caused extensive cracks in 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 Paamal. Residents of Paamal 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.
- No TVL coverage on Ambrym Island.
- Digicel network coverage is not good in the affected area
- Ule airstrip has developed a fault line beside the runway.

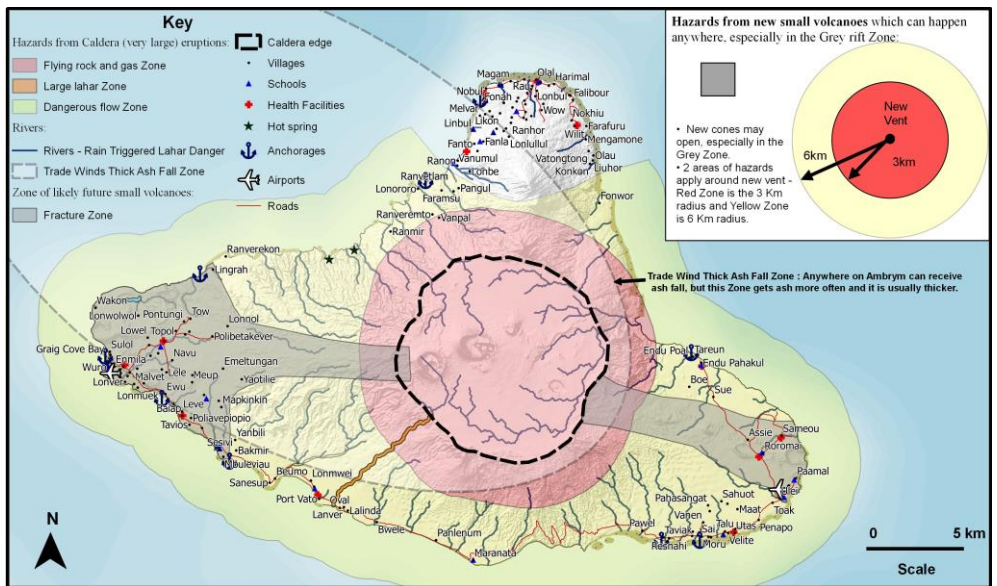


Image source: Ambrym long-term background volcanic hazards map – VMGD - https://www.vmgd.gov.vu/vmgd/images/geo-media/docs/ambrym_background.pdf

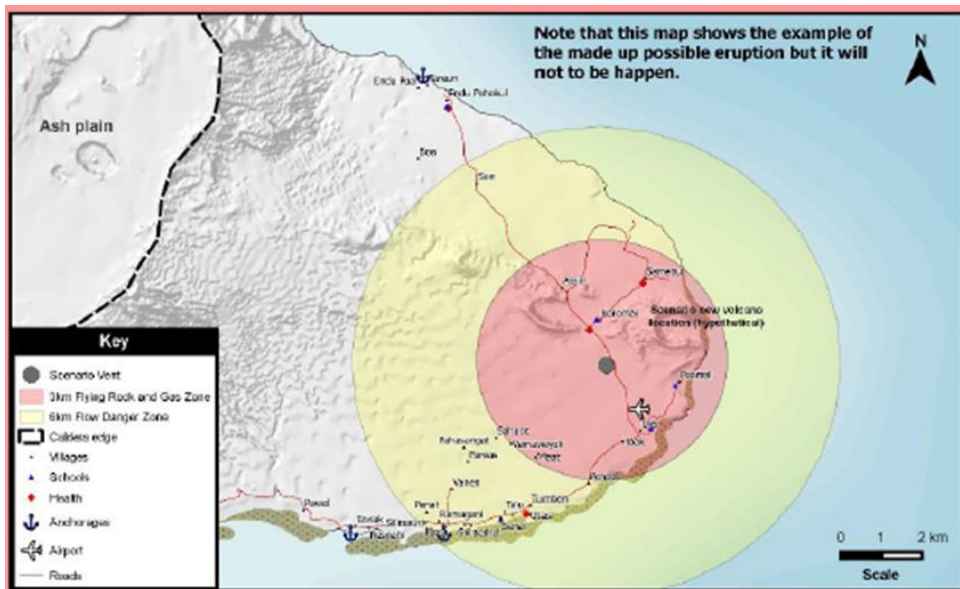


Image source: Ambrym East Flank Future Scenarios map – VMGD

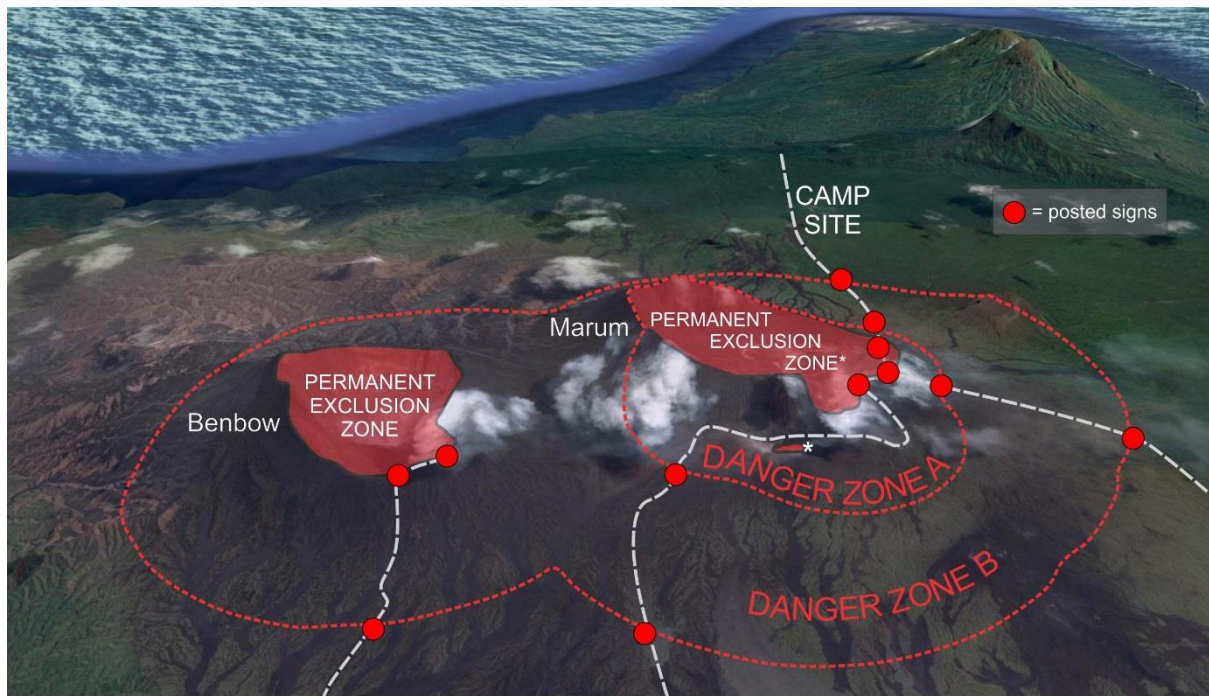


Image source: VMGD

General Coordination

- The Provincial emergency operations center (PEOC) in Lakatoro is the primary coordination hub for operations in Malekula. Coordination meetings held daily.
- Report from the onsite EOC indicates poor network accessibility with Digicel and the Government network experiencing outages. A single phone conversation made early yesterday morning enabled the Malampa Provincial EOC to get the following information. Later telecommunication attempts were unsuccessful.
- Over the past 2 days, assessment teams have been working on the North and Southeast of Ambrym. A meeting held in Endu followed by a visit to Paamal village.
- North Ambrym assessment was due to complete by mid-day on Thursday 20 December. Network issue remains a challenge to have the report sent to both the Malampa PEOC and the NEOC. The on-ground team continues its best to find the fastest way to send the assessment report.
- Verbal report confirmed common effects from North Ambrym includes ash, contaminated water on both rain water and piped sources
- Immediate need at this stage are medical supplies for North Ambrym, food, tarpaulins and water for Southeast Ambrym.
- The Malampa Provincial Government TAC had a technical advisory meeting yesterday 20 December where the following decisions were made:
 1. TAC agrees for another team of wider representation for detail and further in-depth report. Acknowledgment of the current rapid assessment team on Ambrym and awaiting their report once network cleared up.

2. TAC confirms that affected people from Paamal village are temporarily relocated to Ulei School. TAC was informed, that the Endu community positively indicated to cater the affected Paamal community should there be need to.
3. TAC confirms Paamal as the most affected village by the earthquake in Southeast. Awaiting the rapid assessment team should confirm this in their report.
4. TAC agrees that building material for Paamal community must be a priority should there be need to relocate to a new location.

South to East Malekula Chiefs

A situation briefing held on Thursday 20 December for the Malmetenvanu Chiefs requested their collaboration on standby should there be a need to evacuate the affected community in Southeast Ambrym to Malekula Island.

Ambrym Reports

Written report will be received once telecommunication is restored. The assessment team is due to return to base on Friday 21 December at 2:30 pm. NEOC should expect the rapid assessment report by COB Friday 21 December.

Further Information

VMGD Volcano Update:	www.vmgd.gov.vu
NDMO:	ndmo.gov.vu
Prepared by:	NDMO Information Management Unit
Approved by:	Officer in Charge, National Disaster Management Office
Next Sitrep:	TBD