



Government of the Republic of Vanuatu  
National Disaster Management Office  
Phone: +678 22699 / +678 23035 Email: ndmo@vanuatu.gov.vu  
Post: NDMO, Private Mail Bag 9107, Port Vila, Vanuatu



## NEOC Situation Update

Response Name	Ambrym Volcanic Activity & Ambae Volcanic Activity – Displaced population update
Situation Report	03 & 28
Date	15:35 27 December 2018
Reporting period	21/12/2018 – 27/12/2018
Provinces affected	Malampa & Penama, Sanma
Attachment(s)	N/A
NEOC Status	Operational

### Situation Overview

---

#### Ambrym

- 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.

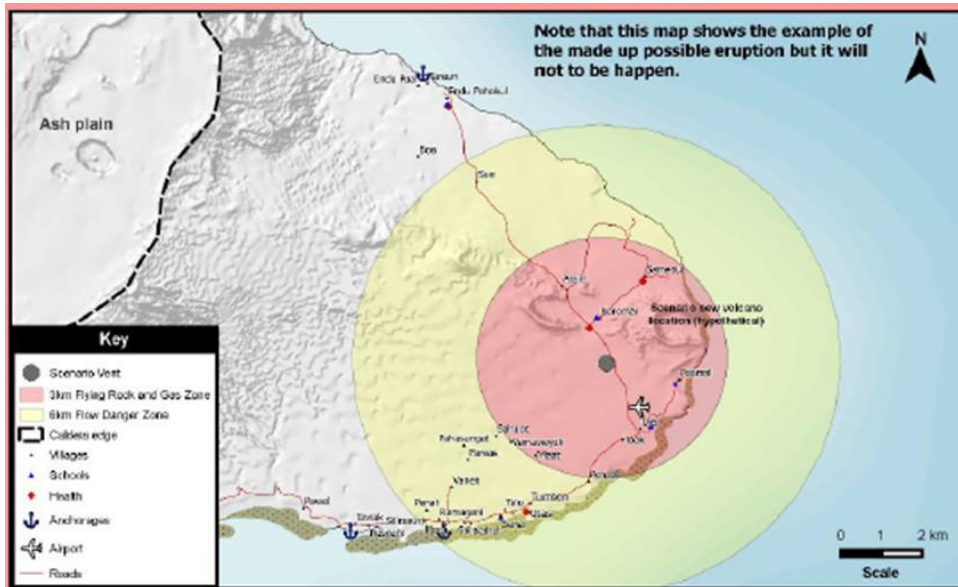


Image source: Ambrym East Flank Future Scenarios map – VMGD

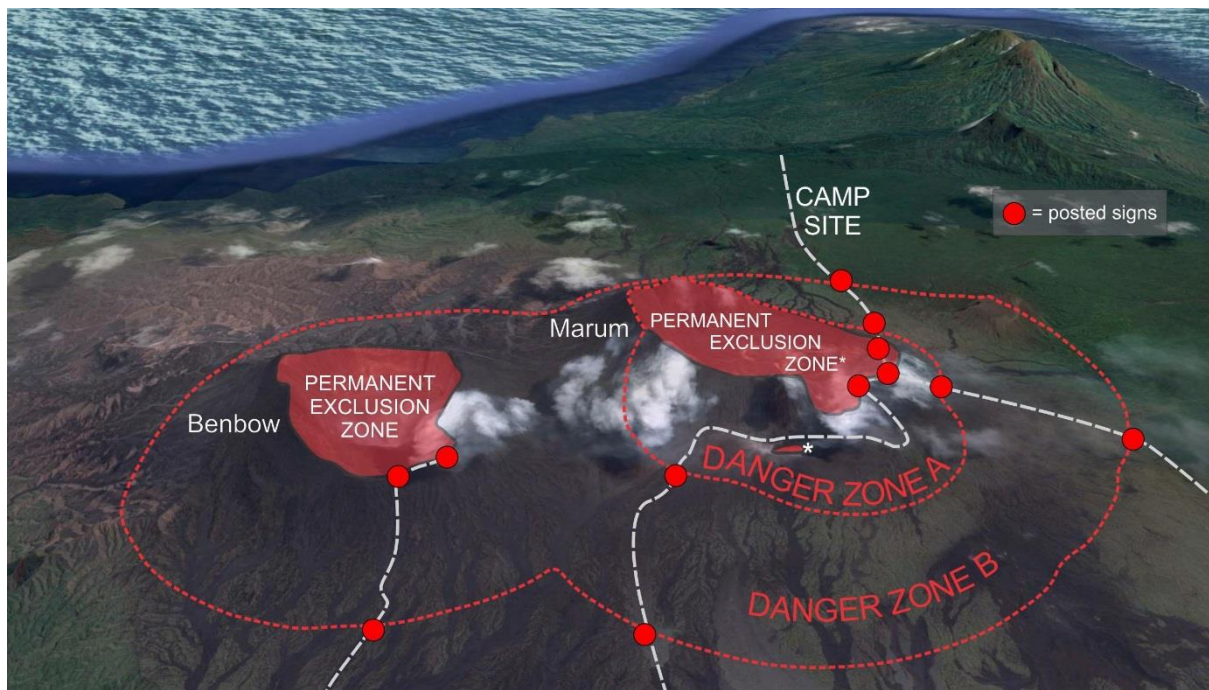
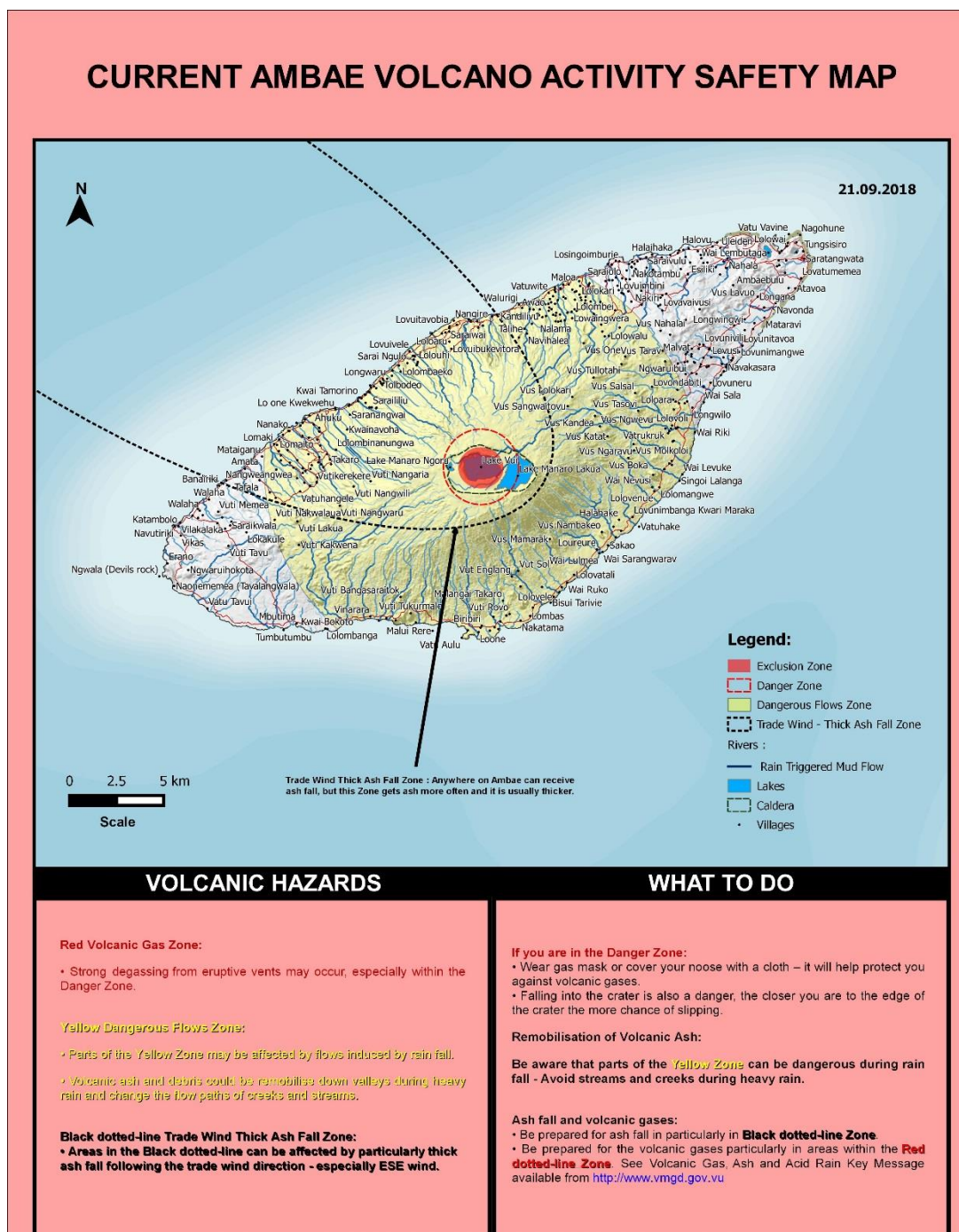


Image source: VMGD

## Ambae Volcano – Displaced population update

- The Ambae volcano remains at Level 2 since November 14 2018.
- Imminent eruption could occur at any time at Level 2, which represents the major unrest state.
- The Danger Zone for life safety is limited at 2 km radius from the active vent and areas in the yellow zone of the below map.
- VMGD observation and seismic data confirms that the volcano is in the major unrest state, which consists on ongoing emission of steam and /or volcanic gases. See <https://www.vmgd.gov.vu/vmgd/index.php/geohazards/volcano/alert-bulletin#manaroVou> for more information.
- Current ash accumulation on ground may change the behaviors of streams and creeks when it rains as more debris (sand, gravel and boulders) washed down the coastal areas.
- The likelihood for the Ambae volcano to escalate to the level of minor eruption is low.



Disclaimer  
Hazard Zones are not definitive  
This map is an interpretation based on historical and geological records.  
Volcanic activity may be unpredictable



## General Coordination

---

### Ambrym

- The Provincial emergency operations center (PEOC) in Lakatoro is the primary coordination hub for operations in Malekula. Coordination meetings held daily.
- The Rapid Assessment returned to Malekula Island late on Friday 21 December. The deployment team produced two separate rapid assessment reports for both the Southeast and North Ambrym. Both reports highlighted the immediate need for clean water, shelter, food, medical drugs supplies, hygiene kits and other important basic needs.
- Ulei school in Southeast Ambrym is converted into evacuation Centre and hosting the Paamal community; 35 household for a total population of 146.
- NDMO has requested the Vanuatu Red Cross Societies (VRCS) to supply 100 tarpaulins as a start to respond to the shelter need in both Southeast and North Ambrym.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> shipment of dry ration and water left Port Vila late on 24 December and arrived on Ambrym (Taviak anchorage) on mid-day 25 December.
- The scoping of evacuation sites for evacuees is underway by a joint team from the NDMO and VMGD plus a local guide from Ambrym. The team is due to report back to the NEOC at 3pm local time today.
- A detailed assessment team planned to deploy for Ambrym soon; exact date will be communicated to partners in due course.

### Ambae Volcano – Displaced population update

- The onsite EOC in Kerepei remains activated. It is the primary coordination hub for operation in Penama Province with respect on the Ambae Manaro Volcano.
- Joint two days Training by IOM and NDMO was successful attended by 30 participants based on Registration and Environment impacts during to Displacement
- IOM and CDCCCs update on host community statistics released soon. People have been moving back to Ambae in the past weeks and even recently during the current past weekend.
- Dry ration shipment to arrive on Maewo on 28 December.

### 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