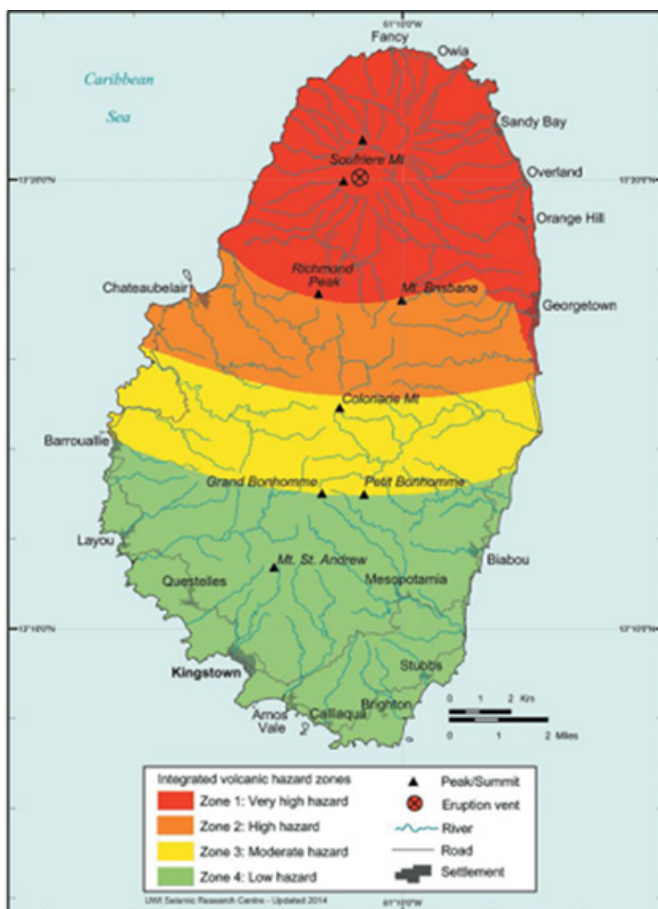


Highlights

1. Soufriere volcano Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (VCT) active since 29th December, 2020. Started with effusive eruption activity, formation of a volcanic dome, changes to crater lake and seismic activity.
2. Activity increased since 8-4-2021 3AM
3. Residents living on the Leeward side of the Island will be able to see the glow/fiery look of the dome as it gets darker
4. PM VCT gave the order to evacuate the red zone on 8-4-2021 4PM and has declared the red alert. This means an explosive eruption is imminent. 20000 residents are living in the red zone.
5. MV Gem Star and VCT Coast Guard is docked at jetty Chateaubelair to transport residents to be evacuated
6. 4 Cruise ships ETA VCT 9-4-2021
7. Deployment of Barbados Defence Force (BDF). ETA VCT 9-4-2021. BDF EMT on standby
8. Last time volcano erupted was in 1979 (both red and orange zone were evacuated)
9. PAHO staff (3) in VCT safe in Green zone.

Situation Overview (Summary press release PM VCT 8-4-2021)



- Low level seismic tremor since 3 AM, 8th April 2021 - Three separate periods: 3-3:40; 5:30-6:20; 8:00-9:00; 10:00-15
- Banded Tremor happening in dissipate bands
- More magma is on its way to the surface
- Recorded three long period earthquakes - associated with the movement of Magma
- Possibility of explosive eruption has increased significantly, Fresh Magma wants to get to the surface
- Explosive activity is expected
- There could also be extended effusive activity without explosions, that contributes to the continued growth of the dome.
- Earliest time an explosive eruption could happen is now, within the next few hours, days.
- Preparations should be finalized for evacuation with very little notice.
- Another period of banded tremor has started, during press conference.

Michelle Forbes, Director of NEMO, addresses the Nation:

1. NEMO has been preparing emergency shelters, National Emergency Council is meeting at 2:00 PM
2. Communities in the North of the island need to be ready to evacuate.
3. Elderly persons and other vulnerable persons in family need to have provisions in place for evacuation.

Prime Minister Gonsalves cites Section 31. of the National Emergency and Disaster Management Act and makes additional statements:

1. Stage 3 Alert, a disaster alert, which is prior to Stage 4 (Order for Evacuation).
2. Substantial prospect that a disaster will strike.
3. The alert remains at Orange Alert Level
4. Will follow the science and continue to monitor and follow advice of Scientists, Professor Robertson, Director of Nemo.
5. If necessary, the alert will be increased to Stage 5.
6. In touch with the United States Authorities, The Southern Command, to Mobilize Assistance, Transportation Arrangements, Technical Assistance.
7. In touch with Authorities in Venezuela.
8. In touch with Cuba, and the RSS, Prime Minister of Barbados and Prime Minister of SLU.
9. If there were to be a volcanic eruption, Prof Robertson expects that the eruption would last at least 4 months, emitting material.
10. Persons who may have to be relocated to other countries would have to be vaccinated.
11. There are also cruise lines that committed to hold persons. This was organized via the Government of Barbados. Persons to be housed on these ships need to be vaccinated.
12. Schools will not be reopened on the 12th of April, they will be delayed for at least two weeks, tentatively.
13. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Social Housing, Transport and Works, Education and Health, etc are all engaged.
14. Royal Caribbean Cruise Line will be here by 8PM Tonight, 1500 persons, and the second can come shortly after.
15. Making arrangements with guests houses and hotels, as well as schools to accommodate persons that may be evacuated if that time comes.
16. Grenada has capacity to house 1,800 persons at Saint George's University
17. Antigua has a hotel that can take 500 persons
18. St. Lucia can accommodate 250-300 persons

Chief Medical Officer addresses the Nation:

1. Due to Community Spread an Asymptomatic Spread of COVID-19, it is strongly recommended that anyone who needs to be evacuated in a shelter or a manage a shelter, should be vaccinated, with at least one dose.
2. Risk involved in gathering in a shelter during COVID-19 are significant
3. Health Services in Danger zone will be moved to safe districts
4. BDF in Barbados will provide a field hospital

Commissioner of Police:

1. Police have put things in place, identified vulnerable persons to evacuate as efficiently as possible, identified persons with public and private transportation, consultations have been held with those persons and persons indicated willingness to assist.
2. RSS ready and willing to assist.
3. Standard Operation Procedures have been reestablished.
4. Plans in place to secure persons, property and animals.

PM reiterates that he has declared a disaster alert which is an indication that volcanic disaster could strike within a period of hours, days or weeks. An evacuation order for residents in the Red zone was given at 5:58PM

PAHO Support Capabilities

1. Coordination of the health cluster
2. EMT support
3. WASH (with UNICEF)
4. Syndromic Surveillance
5. Psychosocial support
6. Structural Assessments of Health Care Facilities
7. Health services (support evacuation of health services)
8. Strengthening of Health EOC
9. Shelter management (with IOM)
10. Logistics (with WFP)
11. CMCOORD

Needs

1. Masks
2. Gowns
3. Watertanks
4. Water purification tablets
5. Water testing
6. Public health messages
7. Logistics hub Barbados to be identified with WFP

Further needs to be identified asap.

Response Actions



1. Provided 60000 masks, 7000 respirators and 6000 gowns to BDF to support deployment of the military. ETD Barbados 8-4-2021. ETA VCT 9-4-2021. BDF EMT on standby.
2. Provided public health messages to MoH VCT (<https://www.ivhnn.org/pamphlets.html>)
3. Coordination with PAHO Country Program Specialist VCT
4. Coordination with Health Disaster Coordinator VCT
5. PAHO PHE/ECC IMST coordination meeting with participation of WDC EOC
6. Participated in UNETT meeting Barbados
7. Contacted PAHO staff in VCT (Nicole Slack-Liburt, Amina Williams and Alex Williams). All safe in the Green Zone.
8. The following persons were identified and put on standby:
 - a. Chris Stewart (PAHO Guyana for Smart) – Logistics
 - b. Ton Vlugman (Retired Barbados) - WASH Expert
 - c. Alvaro Garito – Logistics
 - d. Clemens Buter (Barbados) – Operations

Identified Risks

1. Combination with current COVID-19 situation
2. Evacuation and transportation capacity
3. Respiratory problems
4. Contamination of water
5. Fires/ash on roofs etc

Gaps

1. Syndromic Surveillance Support
2. COVID-19 Protocol deployment emergency teams

Next Steps

1. Memo for declaration for emergency, to include supporting countries
2. Identify critical health needs
3. Concept note (2-pager) for fund raising
4. Contact and update donors (EU, FCDO, GAC)
5. Discuss quarantine protocols for deployment teams
6. Distribute 120000-150000 masks to MoH VCT from PAHO Barbados
7. UN/CDEMA coordination meeting 9-4-2021
8. PAHO ECC/PHE coordination meeting 9-4-2021
9. Provide support to BDF EMT

Annexes

1. PPT UNETT meeting 8-4-2021
2. PAHO Newsletter-130-Supplement- Volcanic Eruptions pdf. To be shared with CMO and HDC
3. Standardized epidemiological protocols for populations affected by volcanic eruptions pdf. To be shared with CMO and HDC