



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
WELLNESS AND THE
ENVIRONMENT**

Ministerial Building, Kingstown,
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Permanent Secretary
Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

FOOD AND WATER SAFETY TIPS DURING A VOLCANIC ERUPTION

We are now experiencing an explosive volcanic eruption. Here are some food and water safety tips to help you maintain good health during this time.

FOOD SAFETY

- Keep foods that have a long storage life and require little or no cooking.
- In the event that the electricity supply is disrupted:
 - The refrigerator will keep food safe for up to four (4) hours. Try not to open the refrigerator frequently during this time.
 - A full freezer will maintain the temperature for 48 hours.
 - A half full freezer will maintain the temperature for 24 hours.
- Wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly with clean water before consumption.

WATER SAFETY

- Store water in containers that previously contained food or clean water (at least five gallons per person per day).
- Ensure that water is sanitized and strained before storing.
- Use only bottled, boiled or treated water for drinking, cooking, washing dishes, cleaning, brushing your teeth, washing your hands and bathing.
- Water obtained from the public supply systems (CWSA) out of the abundance of caution should also be boiled before drinking, during this time until further notice.
- Water obtained from springs and wells etc. can be used for non-drinking purposes such as washing vehicles, flushing toilet, cleaning windows. It is highly

recommended that before using water from any of these sources for drinking purposes you first seek the advice of Health Authorities.

- Water obtained from rivers, streams and other similar sources can be used for flushing toilets, cleaning driveways, washing cars and so on.

REMEMBER

- Only drink water that was **NOT** exposed to ash fall.
- To ensure that your water is safe, you can:
 - Boil water before use.
 - Disinfect water using one (1) tablespoon of household bleaching one gallon of clear water. If water is cloudy, it should be filtered using a clean cloth, or allowed to settle and the debris thrown off before disinfecting.
 - Water purification tablets may also be used to make water fit for consumption. To use, please follow the instructions stated on the packet.

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