

EXPLOSIVE ERUPTION AT LA SOUFRIÈRE VOLCANO, ST. VINCENT

SITUATION REPORT No. 17

AS OF 8:00 PM ON 18 APRIL, 2021

Another Explosive Eruption at the La Soufriere, St. Vincent

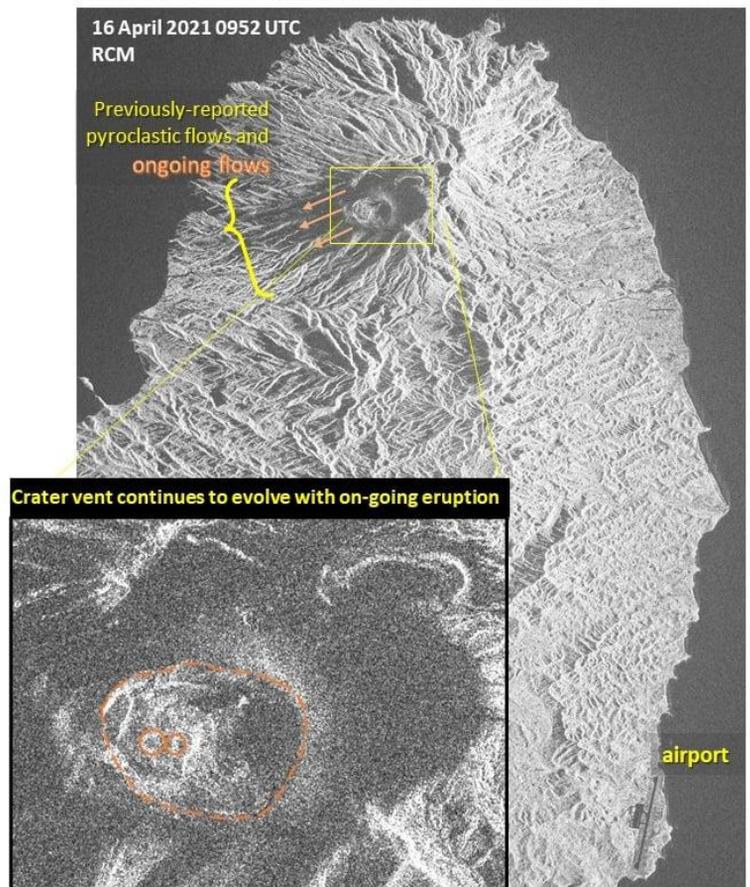
The 6:00PM Scientific Advisory from the UWI Seismic Research Centre (SRC) issued on 18th April, 2021, reported the following:

- The swarm of long-period and hybrid earthquakes continued at La Soufrière, St Vincent with no significant change in their rate of occurrence. Occasional small volcano-tectonic earthquakes were still being recorded.
- An episode of explosive activity generated a period of high-level tremor starting at 4:49 pm on 18 April (Figure 1). The resulting eruption plume rose to above 8km and drifted to the south and southwest of the island.
- Measurements of sulphur dioxide flux at La Soufriere volcano were again undertaken along the west coast yesterday and today with the assistance of the Coast Guard.
- Several traverses were done by boat and yielded an average SO₂ flux of 232 and 391 tons per day on 17th and 18th April respectively.
- The volcano continues to erupt. Its pattern of seismic activity over the last few days is typical of the growth and destruction of lava domes. Explosions with accompanying ashfall, of similar or larger magnitude, can occur with little or no warning.



La Soufrière, St Vincent and the Grenadines

RADAR imagery reveals that the active crater is somewhat enlarged while the crater floor has accumulated tephra and rubble. There also appear to be two small vents prior to the 16 April morning eruptive event.



ALERT LEVEL REMAINS RED

Evacuation Orders have been issued. Access to the volcano is strictly prohibited.

Updates from Impacted CDEMA Participating State

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) has been in regular contact with NEMO St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the following was reported:



NEMO, St. Vincent & the Grenadines



The NEMO's LA SOUFRIÈRE BULLETIN #67 issued on APRIL 18, 2021 at 10:00 AM reported the following:

- Eighty-eight (88) shelters with 4,042 occupants are now activated.
- Some five thousand three hundred and ninety eight persons (5398) are being housed in private shelter.
- A total of 1,459 families have been displaced for so far.
- The National Emergency Operations Center continues to be fully functional operating on a twenty-four hour, around the clock basis.
- NEMO will continue to provide regular updates on activities at the Volcano as they occur.

NEMO EMERGENCY: (784) 458-6366

nemosvg@gov.vc

NEMO HOTLINE: (784) 526-3000



Coordination of the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM)

- Detailed Damage Sector Assessment (DDSA) Team arrived earlier this week and has been executing the detailed assessment for specific sectors, namely Water, Health, Agriculture and Electricity. Institutions supporting this initiative include but are not limited to CARILEC, CWWA, CAWASA and CARDI, coordinated by CDEMA. UNICEF and FAO personnel arrived in the past 24 hours to augment the team. The DDSA mission will be extended to the 20th April to allow the team to gather additional information.
- CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU), mobilized through the RSS on behalf of CDEMA, is partially on the ground with an advance team comprising, Barbados and St. Lucia personnel, in place. The CDRU will assist with relief management at the Port, the establishment of a logistics hub and other humanitarian assistance needs.
- Ongoing coordination efforts are taking place via the daily briefing of the Caribbean Development Partners Group comprising of regional and international partners.
- The public is being advised to coordinate relief supplies with their National Disaster Office in country, cash donations are recommended and banking details are provided on page 5.
- For further information please contact the Regional Coordination Center via rcuser@cdema.org

Support being provided by RRM and other Partners as at 18 April**AGRICULTURE**

- The Agriculture Sector team including CARDI and FAO met with the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Agriculture.
- Data collection on the impact to the agriculture sector is ongoing and being led by national authorities.
- Initial overview of the impact to the sector indicate significant impacts to key crops e.g. arrowroot where 60% of crops were covered by ash; the processing factory is destroyed and most of the livestock in the red zone are on the loose
- Approximately 20-45 gallons of molasses is being mobilised to feed animals located in the red zone
- The FAO Office in Trinidad, through the Ministry of Agriculture is working with other stakeholders in attempt to secure approximately 500 bags of feed as well as other medications to donate to St. Vincent.

**WASH**

- PAHO and UNICEF are facilitating water sampling and shelter assessments in the Northwest region
- PAHO's healthcare and environmental health specialists conducted three (3) shelter assessments of WASH and other public health services at the Barrouallie School, Calliaqua Anglican School and Stubbs Primary School.

**HEALTH**

- CARPHA's expert visited the UWI SRC's Observatory and was briefed on the current situation. An evaluation of a shelter in the yellow zone was conducted to assess the state of health, WASH and supplies needed. A visit to the health centres in the orange zone was facilitated to better understand the impact of the ash fall and resulting damage to the facilities.
- CARPHA continues to meet regularly with the Health Cluster and Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to discuss COVID-19 surveillance and to identify health needs and how best to support the work of the Ministry of Health.

Support being provided by RRM and other Partners as at 18 April**ELECTRICITY**

- CARILEC representative on the DDSA team continues to analyse and process data received from VINLEC

**PUBLIC AWARENESS**

- UNICEF, CDEMA and NEMO collaborated on an awareness campaign around the La Soufriere volcanic emergency to produce animated videos, radio PSA, social media graphics and posters.
- The messaging focuses on COVID-19 protocols, mental health awareness and family/ child safety in public shelters.
- The radio PSAs are currently running on NBC 705, Xtreme 104.3 and Boom 106.9;
- Social media graphics have been posted and shared via the organisations' social media pages;
- Posters are to be disseminated across the active emergency shelters.
- Animated videos are currently under production and will be run on local television stations

List of preparatory actions being undertaken by RRM and other Partners



DONATIONS (*monetary donations rather than relief supplies are encouraged at this time*)

The Office of the Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has provided banking information for donations to be made for disaster relief.

For further credit to:

Bank of America
SWIFT Code: BOFAUS3M

Name: Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Accountant General - Disaster Relief Fund

Bank of New York
SWIFT Code: IRVTUS3N

Bank: Bank of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Address: Bedford Street, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Account No.: 137741

Swift Code: NCBVVC22

Donations may also be given through CDEMA La Soufriere Donation Facility via the banking details below:

Company Name and Address

CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY (CDEMA)
Address: Resilience Way, Lower Estate,
St. Michael, Barbados, West Indies

For persons outside of Barbados:

Intermediary Bank: Wells Fargo Bank, NA
SWIFT Code: PNBUS3NNYC
ABA Routing #: 026 005 092
Account Number: 2000192003913
Bank Address: 11 Penn Plaza, 4th Floor, New York, NY

For persons in Barbados:

Beneficiary Bank: CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank
Bank Address: Warrens, St. Michael, Barbados
Swift Code: FCIBBBBB
Name of Beneficiary: CDEMA La Soufriere Relief
Account Number: 1001206239
Currency of Account: BARBADOS DOLLARS

Beneficiary Bank: CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank
Bank Address: Warrens, St. Michael, Barbados
Swift Code: FCIBBBBB
Name of Beneficiary: CDEMA La Soufriere Relief
Account Number: 1001206240
Currency of Account: UNITED STATES DOLLARS