

WFOs - What to do When a Volcano Erupts Quick Tip Sheet

Per NWS Instruction Directive 10-1502 , dated January 20, 2012

Volcanic Ash, NWSPD 10-15

*Volcanic Ash Products From WFO, CWSU, AAWU, and NCEP Centers – section 5**

(<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01015002curr.pdf>)

*with additional information and specifics gathered from the NWS Operations Manual

- **ALL NWS WFO** actions take place **AFTER** the regional Volcanic Ash Advisory Center (VAAC) and/or United States Geologic Survey (USGS) Volcano Observatory (VO) send a Volcanic Ash Advisory (VAA) or a Volcanic Ash Graphic (VAG).
 - **Issuance** of warning products takes precedence over ALL routine duties or other products.
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After receipt of VAA and/or VAG from the VAAC or the USGS VO, issue the following products or contact the appropriate people for reports:

1. Public Volcano Warning (**VOW**).
 2. **Volcanic SIGMET**.
 3. Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (**TAF**).
 4. Marine Weather Statement (**MWS**) if necessary.
 5. Special Marine Warning (**SMW**) if necessary.
 6. Update the Hazardous Weather Outlook (**HWO**) as necessary.
 7. As reports are received, issue Supplementary Surface Observation (**SDO**) for volcanic ash.
 8. Contact co-operative observers within the CWA to have them report by phone directly any significant observations. Remind them to also record their observations in the “Remarks” section of WS Form B-91.
 9. Contact other weather spotters within your network as necessary.
- **The following** products may (or may not) need to be issued depending on proximity to volcano and the strength of the eruption (and/or contact from local or regional Emergency Services):
- a. Civil Emergency Message (**CEM**)
 - b. Civil Danger Warning (**CDW**)
 - c. Evacuation Immediate (**EVI**)
 - d. Earthquake Warning (**EQW**)
 - e. Local Area Emergency (**LAE**)
 - f. Significant Weather (**SIG WX**) Forecast