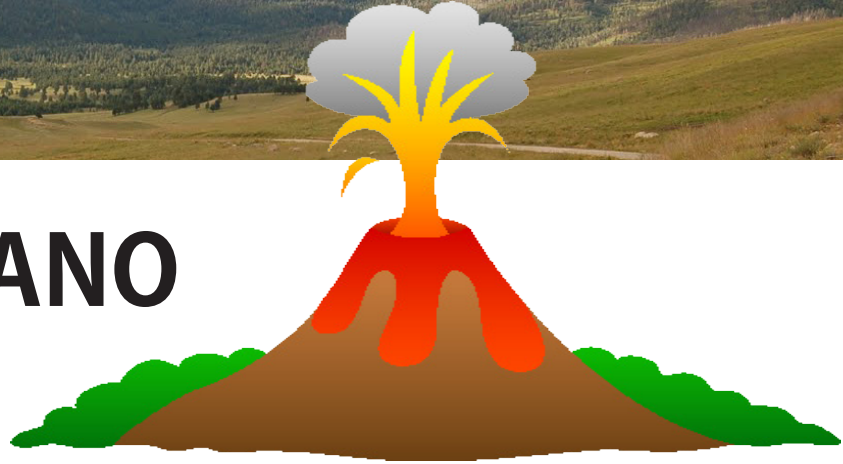




VOLCANO



the local scoop

The **JEMEZ MOUNTAINS**, which border Los Alamos to the northwest, are a volcanic field best known for the **VALLES CALDERA**, which formed during two explosive events 1.6 and 1.2 million years ago and spewed more than 90 cubic miles of ash and rock. Evidence from the eruptions is found in the **BANDELIER TUFF** that forms area mesas and in the area's **HOT SPRINGS**, which are heated by groundwater flowing through the Caldera.

LIKELIHOOD OF FUTURE OCCURRENCES: Low. According to the New Mexico State Hazard Mitigation Plan, the chance of some type of volcanic eruption in the state is 1 percent for the next 100 years and 10 percent for the next 1,000 years. These estimates are lower for Los Alamos County—although several LANL studies argue that the Valles Caldera is a **DORMANT VOLCANO** that will probably erupt again. When or if the next volcanic activity could begin is unknown, however increased seismic activity would likely precede the event and provide some warning of a potential hazard.

BEFORE:

- Build an **EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT** that contains items such as non-perishable food, water, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, extra flashlights and batteries. Goggles and disposable breathing masks are also good to include. You might want to prepare a second kit to keep in your car in case you are told to evacuate.
- Make a **FAMILY COMMUNICATION PLAN** in case your family is not together when the volcano occurs. Decide how you will contact one another and how you will get back together.

DURING:

If you are able to evacuate...

- Follow the **EVACUATION ORDER** issued by authorities, and leave immediately to avoid flying debris, hot gases, lateral blast, and/or lava flow.
- Be aware of **MUDFLOWS**. The danger from a mudflow increases near stream channels, especially during and after heavy rain. Look upstream before crossing a bridge, and do not cross the bridge if a mudflow is approaching. Mudflows can move faster than you can travel on foot.
- **AVOID** low-lying areas and river valleys.
- If time and safety allow, **HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS** who might require special assistance (infants, the elderly, etc.).

If you are unable to evacuate...

- Protect yourself from **FALLING ASH** by staying indoors.
- **CLOSE DOORS**, windows, and all other ventilation in the house (chimney vents, furnaces, air conditioners, fans, etc.).
- If you have a **RESPIRATORY AILMENT**, avoid contact with any amount of ash. Stay indoors until local health officials advise it is safe to go outside.
- **LISTEN** to a battery-powered radio or television for the latest emergency information.



For more, please visit ready.gov/volcanoes

- Wear **LONG-SLEEVED** shirts and long pants.
 - Use **GOGGLES** or wear eyeglasses instead of contact lenses.
 - Use a **DUST MASK** or hold a damp cloth over your face to help with breathing.
 - Stay away from areas **DOWNWIND** from the volcano to avoid volcanic ash.
 - Avoid driving in heavy ash fall unless absolutely required. If you have to drive, travel below **35 MPH**.
- AFTER:**
- Go to a designated **PUBLIC SHELTER** if you have been told to evacuate, or you feel it is unsafe to remain in your home.
 - Monitor local news and social media for **EMERGENCY INFORMATION**, alerts, and instructions.
 - Avoid running car or truck engines. **DRIVING** can stir up volcanic ash that can clog engines, damage moving parts, and stall vehicles.
 - Clear **HEAVY ASH** from flat or low-pitched roofs and rain gutters.

