



NATIONAL COMMISSIONER OF THE ICELANDIC POLICE
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Status report from the National Crisis Coordination Centre

Date: 29 August 2014 at 16:00

Regarding: Volcanic eruption at Holuhraun, north of Vatnajökull glacier.

Main Points:

- A fissure eruption which started at midnight at Holuhraun lava north of Vatnajökull glacier, ended at around 04:00 UTC.
- Continued seismic activity in the area.
- Civil Protection phase has been lowered down to alert phase. Road closures north of Vatnajökull and west of Dettifoss are still in effect.
- The fissure has been estimated to be 600 metres long and is situated 5 km north of Dyngjufjökull glacier in north-Vatnajökull glacier.
- Aviation color-code set by the Icelandic Met Office has been lowered to orange. All restrictions on airspace have been lifted.

Civil Protection phase:

The National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police has decided to lower the Civil Protection phase to alert phase.

National Crisis Coordination Centre:

The National Crisis Coordination Centre in Skógarhlíð is active. The centre coordinates operations and information due continued seismic unrest in the Bárðarbunga area, in northern Vatnajökull glacier.

Volcanic activity:

The fissure eruption, which started at Holuhraun lava, north of Dyngjufjökull glacier in Vatnajökull glacier at midnight, ended at approx. 04:00 UTC this morning.

Scientists, who flew over the area at 9:30, did not see any signs of an ongoing eruption, which had taken place on a 600 metre long fissure, 5 km north of Dyngjufjökull glacier, in direction south-west to north-east. A small amount of lava had drained from the fissure and by around 04:00 UTC, lava flow is thought to have stopped. There have been no signs of glacial flooding.

Seismic activity has returned to levels observed in recent days, with continuous seismicity. Two earthquakes, size 4,8 (at 11:15) and 5,2 (at 12:22) were measured northeast of Bárðarbunga. Scientists continue to monitor the situation closely.

The eruption was visible on Mila's webcams and steam-plumes can still be seen rising from the eruption site.
<http://www.livefromiceland.is/webcams/bardarbunga/>

Flight

The Icelandic Met office has lowered the aviation color-code to orange. All restrictions on airspace have been lifted.

All airports in Iceland are open.



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Meetings and collaboration:

The coordination of the operation continues at the National Crisis Coordination Center.

The closed area:

Restrictions on roads and areas in the highlands north of Vatnajökull glacier are still in effect as well as closures on road 862, west of Dettifoss waterfall. The road east of Dettifoss is open.

A map of the closed roads can be found on the website of the Icelandic Road and Coastal Administration <http://www.vegagerdin.is/media/umferd-og-faerd/Halendi.pdf>

Information

A media unit is placed at the National Crisis Coordination Center, providing information and dealing with media requests. The email address is info@sst.is Tel: +354-5702644/43. The website on safe travel in Iceland is updated regularly: www.safetravel.is

Next status report:

Status reports will be sent from the National Crisis Coordination Center if needed. The Icelandic Met Office will issue press releases in English Saturday and Sunday, following the meeting of Civil Protection Advisory Board. www.vedur.is

National Crisis Coordination Centre in Reykjavík, Iceland

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