



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



**STATUS REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL CRISIS COORDINATION CENTRE**

**Date: 31.08.2014 at 1400**

**Regarding: Volcanic Eruption north of Vatnajökull, in Holuhraun**

**Main Points:**

- A small fissure eruption has started again in Holuhraun lava North of Dyngjufjökull glacier in Vatnajökull glacier
- The eruption site is outside of the glacier, the fissure is estimated 1.5 km long with lava flowing to northeast
- No volcanic ash has been detected by the radar system
- Alert Phase continues to be in effect
- Aviation color-code set by the Icelandic MetOffice was raised over the eruption site from orange to red
- Highland closures remain in effect
- All airports, international and domestic, are open.

**Volcanic and Seismic Activity:**

A fissure eruption started again in Holuhraun North of Dyngjufjökull at 0400 UTC (31/8/14). Scientists estimate the fissure to be at least 1, 5 kilometre long and the lava flowing from the fissure about 3 km long towards the northeast. The thickness of the lava is estimated to be a few meters (6 – 8) and the flow is about 1000 m<sup>3</sup> pr. second.

Lava fountains are estimated to be 50 – 60 m high.

The eruption was detected on Mila's web-camera at 05:51 AM. No volcanic ash has been detected by the radar system at the moment. The weather conditions in the area are windy 18-28m/s, rain and sandstorm. This makes it difficult for scientist to monitor and follow the progression of the eruption, but scientists are in the area, using every opportunity to acquire information on gas and lava outflow.

There are no signs of flooding.

GPS measurements show continued movements north of Dyngjufjökull. Gas emissions rise to a few hundred meters above the fissure.

**Seismic Activity:** Approximately 500 earthquakes were detected in the area and they are smaller than before. The strongest earthquakes this morning: M5.1, and M3.8 northeast of Bardarbunga caldera. Fewer earthquakes seem to follow the event than in the previous eruption, but more lava is being extruded.

Poor weather conditions prevail in the area, which makes detection of smaller earthquakes difficult

**Precautionary measures:**

The Civil Protection Phase is Alert Phase

Closures in the area North of Vatnajökull are still in effect. All roads leading into the area are closed as they have been since the seismic activity began in Bardarbunga on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August.

The Icelandic Met Office has raised the aviation color-code from orange to red over the eruption site. Isavia, The Flight Traffic Control has issued a small flight zone a Danger Area which reaches from ground to 6000 feet (2 km) in similar area as the one issued on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of August for instrumental flight.

The area has no effect on any airports. All airports are open.

Weather conditions do not allow flight over the area at this time. The opportunity to fly over the area will be assessed later today.

The scientists at the Met-Office and the Earth Sciences Institute at the University of Iceland continue to monitor the situation.



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**Meetings and collaboration**

The coordination of the operation and information continues at the National Crisis Coordination Center. This morning there was a meeting with the Icelandic Civil Protection Scientific Advisory Board. After the meeting a teleconference was held with District Commissioner in Husavik to coordinate measures.

**Risk of floods:**

There is no sign of flooding.

**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](mailto:info@sst.is) Tel: +354-5702644/43. The website on safe travel in Iceland is updated regularly: [www.safetravel.is](http://www.safetravel.is)

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