



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



## THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD OF THE ICELANDIC CIVIL PROTECTION

**Date:** 14.11.2014    **Time:** 09:30    **Location:** Crisis Coordination Centre, Skogarhlid.

**Regarding:** Volcanic activity in the Bardarbunga system.

**Attending:** Scientists from Icelandic Met Office and the Institute of Earth Sciences University of Iceland along with representatives from the Icelandic Civil Protection and the Environmental Agency of Iceland.

### Main points

- Volcanic eruption in Holuhraun
- Air quality
- Scenarios

### Notes

- The volcanic eruption in Holuhraun continues with similar intensity as it has for the last two weeks. Lava continues to flow out of the lava lake in the crater to east southeast. Convection of sulphuric dioxide from the crater appears to be constant.
- Seismic activity in Bardarbunga continues to be strong but number of earthquakes stronger than M5,0 seem to be decreasing. The biggest earthquakes that were detected over the last two days were yesterday, 13. November at 20:46 of magnitude M4,9 and at 23:08 of magnitude M4,8. In total 17 earthquakes bigger than M4,0 were detected over the period but no earthquake stronger than M5,0 has been detected for four days. From noon on Wednesday the total number of earthquakes in Bardarbunga was around 140.
- About 25 smaller earthquakes were detected in the dyke and at the eruption site in Holuhraun. All of them under magnitude M1,5.
- The subsidence of the Bardarbunga caldera continues with similar rate as last few weeks although the rate of the depression appears to be slower.
- GPS measurements outside of Bardarbunga show that the displacement is slowing down.

#### Air quality:

- Today (Friday) pollution from the eruption in Holuhraun is most likely to the west. Tomorrow (Saturday) pollution from the eruption site is most likely to the northwest.
- The Icelandic Met Office provides two-day forecasts on gas dispersion from the eruptive site in Holuhraun. Most reliable are the forecast maps approved by meteorologist on duty, see [Gas forecast](#). And although still being developed further, an automatic forecast, see [Gas model](#), is also available (trial run, see [disclaimer](#)).
- Measurements of air quality can be found on the webpage [www.airquality.is](http://www.airquality.is) Data from handheld gas monitors, spread around the country, can also be found on that page
- Instructions:
  - People who feel discomfort are advised to stay indoors, close their windows, turn up the heat and turn off air conditioning. Use periods of good air quality to ventilate the house. People experiencing adverse



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effects should be in immediate contact with their healthcare centre. Measurements of air quality can be found on the webpage [www.airquality.is](http://www.airquality.is) The Meteorological Office issues forecast on its web-page and warnings if conditions change to the worse.

- Instructions from [The Environment Agency of Iceland](#) and [Chief Epidemiologist](#) can be found on their web-sites.
  - Check the Icelandic Met Office forecasts for sulphuric gas dispersion on the web as described above.
  - Handheld meters have been distributed around the country for SO<sub>2</sub> measurements three times a day.
  - Information and any questions on air pollution can be sent to The Environment Agency through the email [gos@ust.is](mailto:gos@ust.is). The Environment Agency is especially looking for information from people who have been in contact with high concentrations of gas; where they were, at what time it happened, how the gas cloud looked (colour and thickness of the cloud) and how they were affected by it.
- Three scenarios are considered most likely:
    - The eruption on Holuhraun declines gradually and subsidence of the Bardarbunga caldera stops.
    - Large-scale subsidence of the caldera occurs, prolonging or strengthening the eruption on Holuhraun. In this situation, it is likely that the eruptive fissure would lengthen southwards under Dyngjajokull, resulting in a jokulhlaup and an ash-producing eruption. It is also possible that eruptive fissures could develop in another location under the glacier.
    - Large-scale subsidence of the caldera occurs, causing an eruption at the edge of the caldera. Such an eruption would melt large quantities of ice, leading to a major jokulhlaup, accompanied by ash fall.

Other scenarios cannot be excluded.

- **From the Icelandic Met Office:** The Aviation Colour Code for Bardarbunga remains at 'orange'.
- The next meeting will be held on Monday 17 of November.

The National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police, Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management  
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