



RÍKISLÖGREGLUSTJÓRINN

# STATUS REPORT

20 August, 2014 Bárðarbunga



- Main Points:**
- **Civil Protection Level raised to Alert Phase**
  - **National Crisis Coordination Center activated**
  - **Continued seismic activity**
  - **Evacuation finished**

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**National Crisis Coordination Center** On August 19 at 18.30 GMT the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police raised the Civil Protection level to Alert Phase. This was done after the Police Commissioners in Húsavík and Seyðisfjörður decided to close and evacuate the area north of Dyngjujökull, following the seismic activity in Bardarbunga in the last few days.

The National Crisis Coordination Center was then fully activated. Many issues in connection with the evacuation of the area were dealt with, and preparations made for necessary actions should seismic activity in the area increase.

## Seismic activity

Seismic activity is in the northwestern part of Vatnajökull. The main area of the seismic activity is northeast of Bardarbunga. Since midnight, around 300 earthquakes have been detected. The depth of the events is similar to what it has been during the last few days. The strongest event was at 4 am and was of the magnitude 3.0. Another event occurred inside the Bardarbunga caldera and was of the magnitude 2.7. There is no sign of an eruption.

## Surveillance flights

The Coast guard will today fly over the area with scientists and representatives of the Civil Protection. They will fly over the area that has been closed and evacuated. Further data will be gathered and measurements done of the glacier, for which the Coast Guard is well equipped. During the flyover the crew will check if there are signs of people still within the closed area.

## Evacuation

Yesterday's evacuation of the area went well and after midnight Kverkfjöll, Dreki and Herdubreidarlindir had been evacuated. Further surveillance of the area will be conducted today. A special permit from the Civil Protection authorities will be needed for those entering the area.

## Emergency Shelter:

The Icelandic Red Cross has opened an Emergency Shelter in Myvatn. The center was open last night and some travelers visited the center.

## ISAR (Volunteer Rescue Units)

ISAR units in Northern Iceland have assisted in closing and evacuating in the highland.

- Road closures:** The Icelandic Road and Coastal Administration has, in consultation with the Civil Protection closed the following mountain roads: F- 910 Austurleid (Dyngjufjallaleid), F903, Hvannalindarvegur, F902, Kverkfjallaleid, F905, Arnardalsleid og F88, Oskjuleid.  
<http://www.vegagerdin.is/media/umferd-og-faerd/Halendi.pdf>
- Next status report:** Status reports will be sent from the National Crisis Coordination Center daily, and more frequently if needed.
- 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.  
Website on safe travel in Iceland: [www.safetravel.is](http://www.safetravel.is)

The National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police, Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management  
[www.almannavarnir.is](http://www.almannavarnir.is)