

## **PEVOLCA Scientific Committee recommends maintaining the yellow alert and warns of likelihood of stronger earthquakes**

- **Experts do not rule out other observable surface phenomena (changes in temperature, smell, water colour)**
- **The volcanic process continues and may evolve rapidly in the short term**

At its meeting today (Saturday), the Scientific Committee of the Volcano Risk Prevention Plan (PEVOLCA) recommended that the current yellow alert in the Cumbre Vieja area of La Palma should remain in force given that the volcanic process continues and a rapid evolution in the short term cannot be ruled out.

The experts reported that overall seismicity remains low, although since 03:00 UTC (04:00 in the Canary Islands) - following a 3.2 magnitude earthquake of Level III intensity - an intensification of seismic activity has commenced, with numerous earthquakes and localised events both at 6-8 km and surface (0-2 km) depths.

Given this scenario, the Committee believes that stronger earthquakes are likely to be felt and may cause damage to buildings. Rockfalls may also occur in the vicinity of Puerto Naos (from La Bombilla to El Remo).

The experts also added that land deformations continue, at the same speed as yesterday, and are compatible with a surface source of deformation. They do not rule out other observable surface phenomena (changes in temperature, smell and water colour, strange behaviour by animals, etc).

In this regard, they ask the public to notify the authorities if they observe anything unusual.

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### **Oficina de Relaciones con los Medios de Comunicación**

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The Scientific Committee is coordinated by the Canary Island government's Directorate General for Safety and Emergencies and comprises representatives of Spain's National Geographical Institute (IGN), Science Research Council (CSIC), Canarian Institute of Vulcanology (Involcan), Spanish Geological and Mining Institute IGME), National Institute of Meteorology (AEMET), National Oceanographic Institute (IEO), and the universities of La Laguna and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

The PEVOLCA has established a volcanic 'traffic light' mechanism for alerting the public. The traffic light consists of four colours according to the level of risk: green, yellow, amber and red. At the yellow level, both information to the public and the surveillance and monitoring of volcanic and seismic activity are increased.

The public are asked to be on the alert for information issued by the Civil Protection authorities through official channels and the media.

A volcanic eruption is preceded by a gradual increase in seismic activity. This can take place over a considerable period of time and may be felt by the population, which should remain calm.

At the yellow alert level, the public are asked to familiarise themselves with the roads in their area in case of possible evacuation and also to identify possible accommodation with relatives outside hazard zones.

They should prepare a small backpack or travel bag with a mobile phone and charger, any personal medication needed and important documentation in case evacuation is ordered.

Any significant change (e.g. noise, gases, ashes, changes in the water level in wells, small earth tremors, etc) should be reported by calling 1-1-2, although please remember that this is an emergency number.

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If you live with someone with reduced mobility who requires special evacuation (ambulance), you should let Social Services in your local Town Hall know.

In the event of an evacuation, your local Town Hall will provide details of evacuation routes and designated meeting points. Evacuation will only take place when required by the situation.

If you feel an earthquake when indoors, take cover in a doorway or under solid furniture such as a table and stay well away from windows. Do not use lifts. If you have to leave your home, turn off the water, gas and electricity.

If you are outdoors, stay away from tall buildings, street lights, advertising hoardings, etc. If you are near the sea, keep away from the shore

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