

PEVOLCA authorities commence preventive evacuation of persons with reduced mobility from at-risk districts

- **Evacuation underway in districts of Las Manchas (Manchas de Abajo, Jedey, San Nicolás and El Paraíso) in El Paso and Los Llanos de Aridane; in El Charco (Fuencaliente); La Bombilla (Los Llanos and Tazacorte); and El Remo and Puerto Naos (Los Llanos de Aridane)**
- **PEVOLCA Scientific Committee reports that island remains in pre-eruption phase, with dangers associated with seismicity and rockfalls**
- **Preventive measures stepped up although yellow alert maintained for affected towns**
- **PEVOLCA Scientific and Steering Committees to meet again this evening**

At its meeting today (Sunday), the Scientific Committee of the Volcano Risk Prevention Plan (PEVOLCA) recommended to the Plan's Steering Committee that preventive evacuation be initiated for the at-risk population in the light of evidence that seismic activity has reached its highest level since the swarm commenced on La Palma. Based on this information, the Steering Committee has decided to begin the priority evacuation of persons with reduced mobility in the districts of Las Manchas (Las Manchas de Abajo, Jedey, San Nicolás and El Paraíso) in the towns of El Paso and Los Llanos de Aridane; in El Charco (Fuencaliente), La Bombilla (Los Llanos de Aridane and Tazacorte) and el Remo and Puerto Naos (Los Llanos de Aridane).

The alert level remains unchanged at yellow, although civil protection actions are being stepped up and the Plan's technical managers have been authorised to programme selective evacuation for other zones of Cumbre Vieja, if necessary, under the coordination of the island Cabildo and local town halls. The estimated population is approximately one thousand.

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The various administrations have also put in place traffic control measures, including road closures, and activities have been suspended.

The Scientific and Steering Committees will meet again this evening.

The experts report that the seismic activity continues at greater intensity with localised events both at surface level and at depths up to 8 km. Numerous earthquakes with a maximum intensity of III-IV have been felt. Surface manifestations associated with surface seismicity - such as noises and vibrations - have also been recorded. The seismic activity has reached its highest level since the swarm began.

Deformations have also increased, with swelling now reaching 15 cm (5 cm in the last 24 horas). The centre of pressure coincides with the area where the earthquakes are felt on the surface: Las Manchas and Jedey.

Given this scenario, the Committee considers that more powerful earthquakes are likely to be felt and may cause infrastructure damage. Rockfalls may also occur on stretches of the LP-2 road between Fuencaliente and Las Manchas, as well as on the LP-3 at the entrance to the tunnel in the Santa Cruz de La Palma-El Paso direction. Earthquakes in parts with steep slopes are not ruled out, particularly if the seismicity exceeds 4.0 in magnitude.

The experts ask the public to notify the authorities if they observe anything unusual, given that the process is ongoing and may evolve in the short term. We are currently in the pre-eruption phase, with an increased likelihood it will culminate in an eruption, the timeframe for which is unknown at present.

The Scientific Committee emphasises the important danger associated with the seismicity and rockfalls. It recommends a stepping up of measures, including the preventive evacuation of the at-risk population.

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Continuous monitoring of the seismic activity has been increased and any significant change observed will be notified.

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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In terms of preventive actions, designate a relative or friend to notify of your location should evacuation be required and make sure other family members know also. If you live with someone with reduced mobility who requires special evacuation (ambulance), you should let Social Services in your local Town Hall know.

Make sure you have some means of communication, preferably a mobile phone and charger, together with a battery-operated radio, torch, candles and extra batteries. Follow any instructions issued by the authorities via TV or radio. Notice of evacuation will be given by local police using loudhailers, as well as through the media and other appropriate means.

Make sure you have sufficient medication for family members who need it regularly. You are advised to keep a folder containing the personal documentation of all the family and your home.

You are advised to keep a supply of bottled water as drinking water may be affected.

In addition, it is recommended that you have essential, non-perishable food available for a few days.

All adults should know how to turn off the gas, water and electricity. This will be necessary in the event of evacuation.

Where possible, ensure your vehicle has a full tank of fuel as petrol stations may not be open.

If you have livestock, please notify your local Agriculture Extension Agency (*Agencia de Extensión Agraria*) or call the information number of the island administration (Cabildo) to receive appropriate instructions. In case of evacuation, please release the animals: do not leave them tied up.

If you have pets, please place them with relatives or friends who live outside the Hazard Zone towns. If you do not have anywhere for them to stay, the authorities will take care

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of them. For hygiene reasons, pets may not be taken to temporary evacuation accommodation.

Please remember that the Canarian government's 112 telephone number is for emergency use only. If you require general information on the situation, you should dial 012 or follow the news on the media.

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