

Volcanic Eruption, Kelud Volcano, Kediri District, East Java province, Republic of Indonesia, Update No.1

Date of Incident

Wednesday, 26 September 2007.

General Information

Kelud volcanic lake is one of the most active and most dangerous stratovolcano in Indonesia. Many lives were claimed by Kelud eruptions in the past six centuries mostly due to pyroclastic flows, surges and especially lahars, as in 1919 eruption (5160 victims). Before the last eruption (1990) a system of drainage was done to maintain the volume of the lake at low level (2,000,000 m³) and to control the lahars. Hydro-acoustic monitoring is the first system of surveillance that has been performed at its crater lake and has revealed intense gas bubbling a year before seismic precursor records of the 1990 eruption.



Thousands of people were set to be evacuated from the slopes of the volcano on 1 October 2007 as scientists warned that heightened activity signaled it could erupt.

Picture of Kelud volcano (courtesy of www.kediri.eastjava.com).

Mount Kelud, one of the most active volcanoes in the world's largest archipelagic nation, last erupted in 1990.

Location





Kelud volcano is located in Kediri District, East Java Province. It lies some 385 miles east of the country's capital Jakarta.



Level of Alertness

As of 29 September 2007, level of alertness of the Kelud volcano and its immediate surroundings was upgraded to **level III (SIAGA)** status, meaning that an eruption could soon take place, after sensors on its slopes picked up increased activity and a buildup of gases.

Please see the alert level of Indonesia volcanoes and its code below:

Stages	Name	Code	Criteria	Interpretation
1	Aktif Normal	 Green	Monitoring of visual, seismicity and other volcanic event do not indicate changes.	No eruption in foreseeable future.
2	Waspada	 Yellow	Increasing activity of seismicity and other volcanic events, and visual changes around the crater.	Magmatic, tectonic or hydrothermal disturbance, no eruption imminent.
3	Siaga	 Orange	Intensively increasing of seismicity with supported by other volcanic monitoring, obvious changes of visual observation and crater. Based on observation data analysis, the activity will be followed by main eruption.	If trend of increasing unrest continues, eruption possible within 2 weeks.
4	Awat	 Red	Following the main eruption, the initial eruption begins to occur as ash and vapor. Based on observation data analysis, the activity will be followed by main eruption.	Eruption possible within 24 hours.

Vulnerable Population

It is estimated that about 269,834 people may be affected once the volcano erupts (18,204 in Kediri District and 251,630 in Blitar District).

Government Action

- The provincial government of East Java is preparing themselves for the eruption by providing disaster contingency fund, preparing 12 spots for the flow of volcanic materials of the eruption along 10 river flows, and mobilizing vehicles and police personnel to be on stand by.
- In Blitar District, the local government is activating emergency response posts up to hamlet levels and will conduct an emergency drill on 3 October. The local government and the vulcanology office have requested the residents to be on alert and to avoid staying within a five kilometer range from the crater.
- The Chief Executive Officer (KALAKHAR) BAKORNAS PB will visit Kelud volcano on 3 October with his team to strengthen coordination in anticipation of the eruption.

MoH – WHO Indonesia Action

WHO – EHA Medical Officer will visit Kelud volcano on 2 October with the MoH team lead by Chief Crisis Centre MoH to do a needs assessment. The team will also have a meeting with hospitals and PHO to strengthen coordination in anticipation of both volcanic eruption and earthquake.

Important Contacts

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Source of Information from Indonesia

Information is gathered from the following sources. This report is for reference only and should not be quoted as factual accuracy can change.

1. WHO
2. Crisis Center (PPK), MoH
3. UN System
4. BAKORNAS
5. Local and international news media