



THE KINGDOM OF TONGA
NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE
NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE

SITUATION REPORT

Event: **Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai Volcanic Eruption and potential Tsunami**
Sit Rep No: **01**
Date: **14 January 2022** Period: **14 January 2022 - Up to 1700hrs**

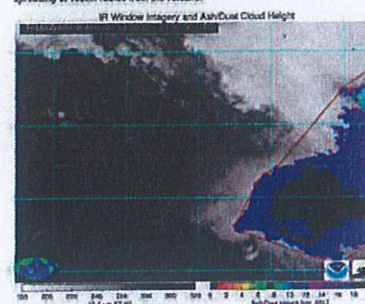
This situation report released by the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) is to inform operational partners on current situation of secondary effect of the Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai (HTHH) Volcanic eruption. This Situation report (Sitrep) covers the period stated above. Frequency of reports will depend on availability of new information and evolving operation.

Highlights

- Tonga Geological Services issued an alert at 0720HRS of the Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai volcanic activity monitored from 0420 to 0620HRS.
- Tonga Meteorological Services issued a Tsunami Marine Warning directly to the public at 11:12am from the National Tsunami Warning Centre.
- National Emergency Management Committee met at 1pm on Friday 14th May 2022.
- The National Emergency Coordination Centre has been activated.
- District Emergency Management Centres in the outer islands are advised to be on standby.
- Advisory was issued to the public to stay away from coastal waters, with relevant public health messages.
- Currently, evacuation is not necessary.
- Ha'apai's Fono and Mango Islands report volcanic ash compromising water supplies and fluctuating sea levels. Matuku, Kotu and Nomuka have no concerns, though water supply safety has been flagged for DOs.

- 'Eua advised of the initial panic caused by the warning, with fast reaction from the community in getting to higher ground.
- NEMO is directly engaging with the community and advises the public to contact District Officers and NEMO should the need arise.

Figure 1: MODIS AHI Satellite Imagery captured at 12:00 PM, 14/1/2022 (Local Time) showing volcanic ash clouds at altitude 5-20km above sea level spreading at 180km radius from the volcano.



Background

The Tonga Geological Services commenced reporting on the Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai (HHTH) volcanic activity on 20 December 2021. For all flights, the aviation colour was red to advise that it was not safe to fly. Ash was detected.

TGS advised that 6 days later there was intermittent gas and the aviation warning was orange, less gas in air.

TGS further advised that on day 13, last ash and dust from eruption was detected drifting North East to Ha'apai Group.

Day 14 TGS advised that there was intermittent steam/ gas eruption, with aviation code downgraded to yellow.

TGS advised that on Day 15, on 2 January 2022 was the last steam/ gas eruption for this initial series of volcanic activity.

Current situation

- TGS reissued alert on 14th January 2022, following volcanic activity and Tongatapu and 'Eua communities impacted by the smell of sulfur.
- The National Emergency Operations Centre remains activated 24/7 and will monitor TGS reports and advice and respond to any impacts on the community.
- Tonga Met issued a Tsunami Marine warning from the National Tsunami Warning Centre.
- NEOC will also remain in close contact with the National Tsunami Warning Centre run by Tonga Met to be kept up to date to better prepare the Tongan community.
- NEMO is issuing public health advisories especially for those with respiratory concerns and vulnerable communities such as pregnant women, following public notice from TGS and Tonga Met on the volcanic activity and the tsunami marine advisory.
- NEMO is providing updates via social media.

Further updates

The next Sitrep will be provided in a few hours.