



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

**SITUATION REPORT**

Event: **Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai Volcanic Eruption**  
Sit Rep No: **03**  
Date: **15 January 2022** Period: **11AM 15<sup>th</sup> JAN to 11AM 16<sup>th</sup> JAN**

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***

- The National Emergency Operations Centre was activated on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022.
- Tonga Geological Services advised that HTHH volcanic activity recommenced on Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 and tsunami marine warning issued later that day.
- Ha'apai's Fonoi and Mango Islands reported contaminated water due to volcanic ash, with Government responding by providing water.
- HTHH volcano erupted at 5.20pm on Sat 15 Jan 2022.
- A tsunami warning was issued with an evacuation notice enforced by First Responders.
- The Hon. PM addressed Tonga at 7.30pm, advising water supplies would be distributed if needed.
- Power was cut before 7pm.
- NEOC has received approx. 400 calls since 8pm Sat.
- Over 3000 people in evacuation centres, cars, and households were distributed water as at 0800am today
- Contact with Ha'apai, 'Vava'u and Ongo Niuas has not been made since the event..
- NEMO has not been able to communicate with boats, including *VOEA Ngahau Siliva* since Mango Island
- Tonga Police has evacuated residents of Fafa, Pangaimotu & Makaha'a Islands on Sun 16<sup>th</sup> morning.
- To date, there has been one person reported missing from 'Atata.

Figure 1: HIMAWARI 8 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 160km 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 with aviation code immediately heightened to red. TGS monitored the volcanic activity with public advice provided to the public from 20 December 2021 until 2 January 2022. Environmental and public health warnings were provided with regards to the potential of water contamination from the ash fall and potential of acid rain in Ha'apai, as well as potential of fish poisoning due to volcanic fluid polluting the ocean and raising awareness on the hazardous areas surrounding the islands and ensuring the public kept clear of these areas. TGS advised on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 that there was no activity from HTHH since 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022.

## Current situation

- On 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022 TGS reissued an alert, following volcanic activity and Tongatapu and 'Eua communities impacted by the smell of sulfur.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022, Tonga Met issued a Tsunami Marine warning from the National Tsunami Warning Centre at 11.12am directly to the public, following TGS' public notice of increased volcanic activity again. The tsunami marine warning was cancelled for Vava'u and Ongo Niua in the evening of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January and for the whole of Tonga on Sat 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022, NEMO and HMAF departed Tongatapu, on the HMAF naval vessel, *VOEA Ngahau Siliva*, at 0800am for Fono'i and Mango Islands with 3450 litres (435 containers) of clean drinking water.
- Volcanic eruptions with the tsunami order enabled communities to evacuate immediately.
- Current information on Evacuation Centres that requested water (ranging from 15 people to over 300 people at an Evacuation centre/ safe zone) were:
  - 'Atele Stadium
  - Teufaiva Stadium
  - FWC Vaoloaloa
  - Mosimosi
  - FWC Longolongo
  - Tonga Broadcasting
  - Taliai Camp
- There are approximately 15 requests for support currently reported and referred to First Responders since 7.30 Sun 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

## Further updates

NEMO will provide the next SitRep at the next meeting or within 24 hours, as determined by NEMC