

MT AGUNG ACTIVITY REPORT

Date: 16-01-2018 09:00 WITA from Gaia-Oasis Tejakula.

SITUATION AT MT AGUNG

Yesterday at Siwaratri, Mt Agung had another small eruption with ash column reaching 2500 mtrs, and continuous volcanic tremor.

This follows a similar eruption last Thursday. In both instances, the wind was tending East – NorthEast.

Magma continues to flow to the surface and volcanic gusts, ash eruptions, and stones/lapilli have been ejected around the crater.

In the last two eruptions, it rained ash as well as sand, with mainly ashfall reported in the 6-12 km zone.

The upper part of Tulamben village experienced ashfall lasting over an hour, and motorcyclists on the main Singaraja-Amlapura road passing the village reported stinging eyes.

Villages near the crater reported strong smells of sulphur lasting over half an hour.

The Volcanology Board has reiterated that no activity whatsoever should take place within the reduced 6 km Danger Zone.

The warning was given as in the last week, over 10 persons have tried to climb Mt Agung, including several tourists who claimed ignorance of the risk posed by the volcano.

The activity status remains at Level 4, “Beware”, as the volcano is still in an eruptive phase, although activity is fluctuating.

The risk of rock, sand, grit and thick ash is expected to impact the areas within 6 kms of the crater.

The risk of lahar mud flows will follow the river valleys which have their headwaters in Mt Agung, depending on the volume of water and eruptive material.

The current intermittent eruptions mean that the risk of pyroclastic flows is relatively small.

Bali Airport is normal and Banyuwangi Airport is ready and on standby.

A new Aviation notice (VONA) was issued yesterday noting eruption with volcanic ash cloud at 5142 meters

The code remains at ORANGE as eruption and ash emission is not continuing.

No volcanic ash advisory from the Darwin VAAC has been issued.

Although in an eruptive phase, Mt Agung has been gentle so far with largely effusive eruptions.

The potential for an explosive eruption remains but it appears to be reducing, with the decreasing radius of the Danger Zone.

In light of the situation, the Dalem Puri temple in Besakih has reduced its Ngusaba ceremony from 1 week to 3 days, from 16-19 January.

Even though the vice-governor has declared Besakih a safe zone, many members of the tourism industry do not encourage travellers to visit Besakih at this point in time.

As at 6pm on 15 January 2018, there are 47,268 refugees spread in 229 centres in Bali. The Disaster Mitigation Board continues to assist but acknowledged that there were still a few problems including distribution and logistics.

The Gaia-Oasis foundation continues to assist, building emergency toilets and providing food and clean water for the 4,754 refugees in Buleleng.

We are very grateful that the Plastic Waste Bank initiative has finally taken off in Tejakula, and that several refugees are actively joining in this activity.

We salute Tejakula's home-grown network, JEPRI-LINK, who is working with the refugees and local families to collect & sell plastic waste to be recycled as packing pallets.

We pray that whatever happens will lead to greater good and balance in the world;

Om Santih Santih Santih Om

Blessings & peace,

Yen and the Gaia Team