

## **VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS**

### **PREPAREDNESS FOR VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS**

The volcanic risk in Greece is limited to the active volcanoes of Santorini and Nisyros and within a few tens of kilometers from these.

#### **BEFORE THE ERUPTION**

- Be prepared for the phenomena that accompany volcanic eruptions, such as ejection of rock, pyroclastic flows (condensed volcanic ash moving at high speeds), mudflows, landslides, earthquakes, emission of toxic gases, volcanic ash fall and tsunami.
- If you live in an area near a volcano have a family evacuation plan and select an appropriate escape route according to the instructions of the authorities.

#### **DURING THE ERUPTION**

##### **If you find yourself in close proximity to the eruption**

- Withdraw immediately and move to areas with relatively high altitude, since there is a high probability of ejection of rock, lava flows and pyroclastic flows, as well as emission of toxic gases.
- Carefully follow the instructions for evacuation of the area given by the authorities.

##### **If you find yourself at a good distance from the eruption but there is fall of volcanic ash Indoors**

- Stay informed from the media and the Internet about whether to evacuate the area or remain in covered spaces.
- Close all doors and windows. Place wet towels under the doors and seal with duct tape doors and windows that do not close airtight.
- If you suffer from chronic respiratory problems, stay inside and avoid unnecessary exposure to volcanic ash. Wear disposable mask to protect yourself from volcanic ash that may have penetrated the interior.
- If you experience irritation to the eyes, nose or throat immediately leave the area because the irritation is probably due to the presence of toxic gases. When you find yourself in an area without high concentration of toxic gases the irritation ceases.
- If you can, avoid driving. Volcanic ash creates problems for internal combustion engines and makes the roads especially slippery. If driving is necessary, drive at a reduced speed, with elevated windows and no air conditioning. Use fog lights and plenty of liquid on the windshield wipers.
- If you are in a coastal area move to areas with higher altitude as various phenomena that accompany a volcanic eruption can cause water gravity waves (tsunamis).

##### **Outdoors**

- Wear full coverage clothing, protective safety glasses and disposable mask to protect yourself from volcanic ash.
- Try to take cover indoors. If this is not possible, cover your head to protect yourself from falling volcanic materials of larger size.
- If you can, avoid driving, otherwise drive according to the instructions given above.

#### **AFTER THE ERUPTION**

- Stay indoors, especially if you have a chronic respiratory problem.
- Continue to wear protective safety glasses and disposable mask.
- Continue to wear full coverage clothing.
- Remove the volcanic ash from your roof since it may become too heavy and cause a collapse.
- Remove the volcanic ash from the exterior and the interior of your home.