



# Volcanic Hazard Atlas of the Lesser Antilles

*University Of The West Indies*

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## **Volcanic Hazard Atlas of the Lesser Antilles** University Of The West Indies **Guide to the Atlas**

There are three main sections in the Volcanic Hazard Atlas of the Lesser Antilles: (i) an introductory section which presents general information on regional setting, volcano monitoring and volcanic hazards throughout the region; (ii) an island-specific section in which the volcanology of each island is discussed in turn and (iii) a glossary of scientific terms used. An accompanying map pocket contains poster versions of the main volcanic hazard zonation maps and a new geological map of Dominica. The entries in the island-specific section are presented in the Atlas in alphabetical order. They were prepared using a specific template by contributors intimately familiar with the volcanic history of the island in question. There is a separate chapter for all 11 islands of the Lesser Antilles which have one or more live volcanoes, namely Dominica, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, Nevis, Saba, St. Eustatius (Statia), St. Kitts, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent. An additional chapter is dedicated to the submarine volcano Kick em Jenny and the nearby *Île de Caille*.

The individual island-specific entries include sections that summarise all previous work, the geological history of the island and the volcano monitoring network. Each potentially active (live) volcano on the island is then discussed in turn, with emphasis on past eruptive activity (including any historical activity), geothermal activity and seismicity. The most-likely scenario for future volcanic activity is outlined, and is accompanied by a discussion of expected hazards. In most cases, two hazard maps are presented for each scenario. The first map shows the areas likely to be affected by individual hazards for the scenario in question. The second map is a volcanic hazard zonation map, in which the information from the hazard map is integrated into a user-friendly colour-coded map showing the overall areas of very high, high, moderate and low hazard (red, orange, yellow and green, respectively). In all eruption scenarios for the onshore volcanoes for which these dual maps are presented, essentially the same parameters have been used to define these coloured integrated hazard zones. For example, regardless of whether the scenario depicts a dome-forming or an explosive Plinian eruption, the area of moderate hazard (yellow) is defined as the area likely to receive 5-10 cm of ash. Should this area fall completely within the 5 km ballistic projectile zone (one of the parameters used to define the zone of high hazard, i.e. orange), then that map will not show a yellow zone. In many of the dome-forming eruption scenarios, for example, the yellow zone of moderate hazard is limited or even missing as a result of this delineation. Poster-sized versions (17 x 22 in) of all the integrated volcanic hazard maps are included in the accompanying map pocket. Each entry concludes with a complete bibliography of all known relevant publications specific to that island.

The hazard assessments presented in the Atlas are essentially long-term eruption forecasts. Long-term forecasts are those that pertain to the coming years, decades or longer. Once a given volcano has begun erupting, conditions may change rapidly requiring constant updating of the hazard map based on short-term forecasts. Such real-time changes must be made based on the specific activity at the volcano and the information from the monitoring network, and will be different for every volcano. For this reason, it must be stressed that the hazard maps presented in this Atlas should not be viewed as fixed, unchanging depictions of future activity. They are long-term forecasts based on the current scientific understanding of the volcano in question, and may need to be updated as new information (such as age dates) comes to light, or if a volcano begins an actual eruption.

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