

# Taranaki Maunga PYROCLASTIC FLOWS FROM TARANAKI



Taranaki Maunga is a cone volcano, like its distant neighbours Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngauruhoe. **Cone volcanoes can produce pyroclastic flows during an eruption.**

## What are pyroclastic flows?

- > Pyroclastic flows are **fast moving clouds of steam, debris and hot ash.**
- > They **flow down a volcano's slopes** destroying nearly everything in their path.
- > These flows are **deadly and highly destructive** causing fatal burns and injuries.
- > They form when eruption clouds or lava domes collapse.



## Where do they occur?

Pyroclastic flows are likely to affect valleys on the slopes of Taranaki Maunga.

They can go down one side or multiple sides of the volcano depending on the size of the eruption.

Rarely, flows can reach beyond national park boundaries.

During the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens (USA), at least 17 pyroclastic flows raced down the slopes.



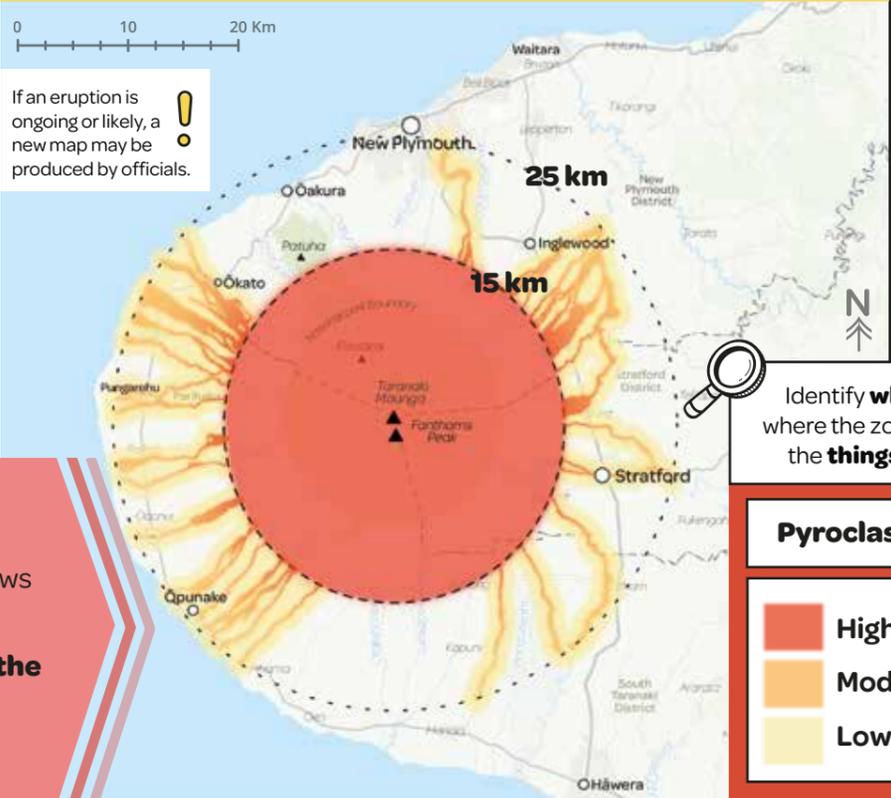
## What should you do if you see or are warned of pyroclastic flows?

### If you are WITHIN the pyroclastic flow zone:

- Run or **evacuate by car** out of valleys and in the opposite direction to the flow.
- And you cannot get away, **take shelter** and cover your nose, mouth and exposed skin.

### If you are AWAY FROM the flow zones:

- Stay indoors**, you are unlikely to be evacuated as a result of pyroclastic flows.
- Stay informed.** Listen to the radio, or follow official updates on social media.



Identify **where you live** and where the zones are in relation to the **things you care about**

**Pyroclastic flow zones**

- Highest likelihood
- Moderate likelihood
- Lowest likelihood

## Main impacts



**People and animals**  
High temperatures can cause **fatal skin burns** and breathing injuries. The force of the flows can cause **blast injuries and death.**



**Infrastructure**  
High temperatures and the force of the flow can **destroy buildings, flatten forests,** and scorch **farmland.**

## Be prepared for flows



If the volcano is active, stay away from the slopes around the volcano.



Keep up to date with the current Volcanic Alert Level at [www.geonet.org.nz](http://www.geonet.org.nz).



Practice your emergency plan, know your zone make a grab bag and have emergency supplies.

## More information

See the whole series from Taranaki Emergency Management at [cdemtaranaki.govt.nz](http://cdemtaranaki.govt.nz) or scan the QR code

Go to [geonet.org.nz](http://geonet.org.nz) for monitoring, updates and the current Volcanic Alert Level.

**During volcanic activity** follow **official advice** provided by Taranaki Emergency Management, Department of Conservation and emergency services.



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## Know the pyroclastic flow zones:



This map shows which areas are more likely to have pyroclastic flows during a future eruption.

**Flows are more likely to occur within 15 km from the top of the volcano (red area on the map) and in valleys.**

Zones are based on where flows have occurred in the past.

The map does not show the exact areas which will be impacted in a future eruption. Volcanic activity may change the features on this map and hazard zones may change without notice.

Base Map: Eagle Technology, StatsNZ, NIWA, LINZ, © OpenStreetMap Contributors, Esri, NASA, NGA, Natural Earth

