

Information Related to the Eruption of Mt. Ontake

October 1, 2014

For those living near Mt. Ontake, please be aware of the following:

- Do not, under any circumstances, go near Mt. Ontake!

Mt. Ontake continues to erupt. Please watch out for falling volcanic rocks in an area up to 4 kilometers around the crater. It is also possible for small rocks to be projected a long distance. Due to the dangers involved, please avoid going near the mountain.

- Concerning eruption-related air pollution

The observed level of air pollutants (sulfur dioxide, airborne particulate matter) has not changed significantly from before the eruption, so there should be no immediate health threat; however, since the density of air pollutants could grow to exceed the acceptable range, please continue to check information from the media and your local government.

In the event that a threat should arise, please take the following actions:

- Do not go outside unless absolutely necessary
- Wear a mask
- Should you smell sulfur, cover your mouth and nose with gauze soaked with water
- After returning home, wash your hands and eyes thoroughly and gargle

- Health effects related to falling volcanic ash

It is anticipated that volcanic ash will fall. There is very little effect on health from volcanic ash, but just in case, please avoid unnecessary outings in regions where falling ash has been forecast; if you do go out, please be sure to wear a mask and goggles or glasses.

If you suffer from asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, or other respiratory-related illnesses, please be aware that symptoms may become worse.

- Be careful of landslides after rain has fallen

Normally mudslides happen after heavy rainfall, but after a large amount of ash has fallen following an eruption, even light rain can cause mudslides. If you live near a river or stream, please take caution when it rains.

- Information provision, contact information

The Nagano Prefectural Police is collecting information about hikers in the area. If you are unable to contact someone who might have been hiking on September 27, you have confirmed someone's safety, or you have any other questions, please contact a Supporter for International Residents.

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