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***Kilauea volcanic activity and ash eruptions intensify  
USGS and NOAA offer tools to help the public monitor status and hazards***

With ash eruptions occurring from Kilauea's summit this week, there is a threat of an even larger steam-driven violent explosion. Such an eruption could happen suddenly and send volcanic ash 20,000 feet into the air, threatening communities for miles. USGS and NOAA's National Weather Service are working together to observe, model and warn the public of hazardous conditions. Here is where you can find the information you need to stay safe.

**[Observations and Status of Kilauea](#)**

While the [USGS Hawaii Volcanoes Observatory](#) is positioning staff to observe the volcano and best communicate its status and evolution, they rely heavily on the weather forecasts from NOAA. Wind forecasts, along with dispersion models such as HYSPLIT, are critical in understanding where sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) will disperse from fissures and vents to ensure safety of USGS observers, emergency managers and the public.

**[Ashfall Advisories, Warnings and Current Weather Forecast from Honolulu](#)**

On May 15 the National Weather Service issued the first ever ashfall advisory for Hawaii. Forecasters will issue ashfall advisories and warnings when ashfall is a hazard. NOAA predicts where an ash plume will go and how much ash will accumulate using USGS's [Ash3d Volcanic Ash Dispersion Model](#).

**[Volcanic Ash Advisories and Aviation Warnings](#)**

Volcanic ash clouds can threaten air traffic by sandblasting windscreens, clogging pitot tubes, and in severe cases, causing jet engines to shut down. NOAA issues volcanic ash warnings to alert pilots to potential ash in the atmosphere and will include volcanic ash in forecasts for airports.

**[Tips to Stay Safe](#)**

During explosive eruptions, volcanic ash can disrupt downwind populations by causing breathing problems, impacting water quality, clogging air filters, shorting out power systems and making transportation difficult. If your community is threatened by ash, you are advised to do the following:

- Seal windows and doors.
- Protect electronics and cover air intakes and open water sources.

- Avoid driving as visibility will be reduced and roads may become slippery.
- Remain indoors to avoid inhaling ash particles unless it's absolutely necessary to go outside. If you have a respiratory illness, do not go outside.
- If you must go outside, cover your mouth and nose with a mask or cloth.

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