



**Thursday, June 9, 2011
6:00 PM, EST**

EOC SITUATION REPORT

Volcano Eruption in Chile

Current Situation

- On 5 June 2011, The National Service of Geology and Mining reported the eruption of volcano range Puyehue-Cordon-Caulle, located 800 km (500 miles) south of the Chile capital, Santiago.
- Large columns of ash and smoke spewed from the mountains, threatening the health of residents living around the area. Evacuation orders were issued for about 3,500 people around the Volcano.
- The volcanic ash cloud has also affected Bariloche, Villa la Angostura, Neuquen, and Buenos Aires in the neighboring country of Argentina, which declared a health emergency and advised people in affected areas to stay indoors.
- There is a danger of flash floods due to volcanic material that may clog rivers, cause mudslides and threaten dams in the area, especially with to the rain forecasted in the region.
- According to the national geological survey, the number of earthquakes related to the volcano has decreased considerably, but the process eruption continues and may increase



Source: NASA

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to higher intensity. Ash would likely continue spewing out for at least several more days, and wind continues in east to north-east direction carrying ash clouds over Argentina.

Health Response

- The health authorities informed the public regarding the potential dangers of ash and advised the use of masks, goggles, and stay indoors. The government of Chile sent eye drops, chlorine tablets and water purification equipment to the affected area.
- Chilean health authorities conducted laboratory analysis of water samples collected around affected communities. The results showed no significant chemical changes, and comply with the standards for drinking water. Health care facilities are carefully monitoring the demand for respiratory care.
- PAHO/WHO is monitoring the situation and providing requested information to the country office. Chile and Argentina have not requested international assistance.