



PREPARE FOR

VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS

#READY360

#YourMove

IT'S YOUR
MOVE!

PREPARE

TO PROTECT

Pyroclastic flows, volcanic ash, lahars...
Do these terms sound unfamiliar to you ?
It's time to change that.

With 21 volcanoes in the Caribbean,
learn how to recognize the dangers and
respond effectively in the event of an
eruption.

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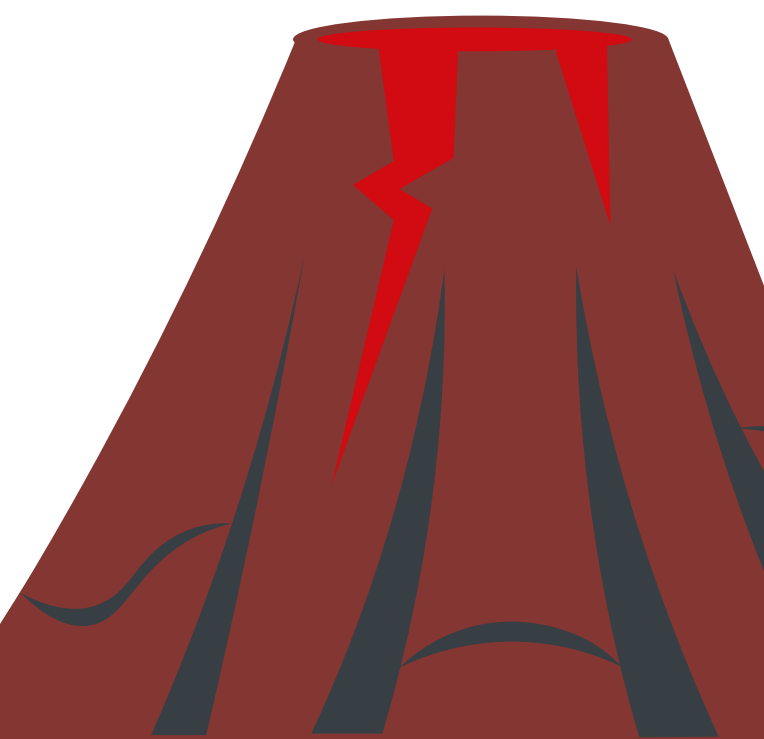
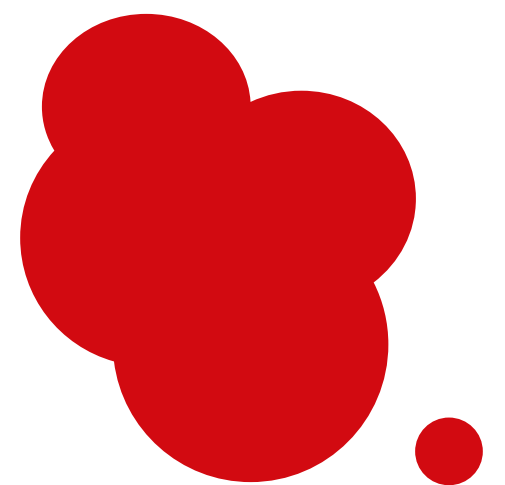
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WHAT IS A VOLCANIC ERUPTION ?

A volcanic eruption occurs when the lava from a volcano rises to the surface and escapes with gases through a crater or fissure, which are openings or exit points. Volcanic eruptions can occur over a short period of time.

2 TYPES OF ERUPTION

EFFUSIVE :

Where the lava flows down the slopes of the volcano.

EXPLOSIVE :

With sudden eruptions called pyroclastic flows (scorching avalanches of toxic gases and rocks) and clouds of ash that rise into the atmosphere, then fall back over long distances.

DID YOU KNOW ?

There are **21 known active volcanoes** in the Lesser Antilles, several of which could still erupt. Caribbean volcanoes are **explosive volcanoes**, although some may have undergone effusive phases.

The volcanic arc of the Lesser Antilles, much of which is submerged, giving rise to **undersea volcanoes**.

The region's most active undersea volcano, known as Kick 'em Jenny is located 8 km from Grenada. Eruptions from these volcanoes can cause earthquakes, toxic gas emissions, and, more rarely, tsunamis.



MANIFESTATIONS

- Lava flows.
- Clouds of gas, ash and boulders.
- Projection of volcanic rocks and mudflows (lahars).

ALERT LEVELS

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Level
1
Monitoring

Level
2
Vigilance

Level
3
Volcanic
eruption

Level
4
Rescue

EXAMPLES

2021 : Volcanic eruption of La Soufrière, St. Vincent. More than 13,300 people were evacuated, and almost all of St. Vincent's 110,600 inhabitants were indirectly affected by the ash fall and water restrictions.

2010 : Collapse of the dome and glowing cloud of The Montserrat volcano, Soufrière Hills, is one of the most active in the Caribbean region. Cloud of ash that reached neighbouring islands, including Guadeloupe.



BEHAVIORS TO ADOPT

BEFORE

A VOLCANIC ERUPTION

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- ✓ Regularly monitor volcanic activity and the local alert level, as well as those on neighboring islands. Check the official websites or listen to radio bulletins.
- ✓ Never go into a forbidden zone around a volcano : these zones are dangerous because of toxic gases, falling ash, intense heat or sudden eruptions.
- ✓ Cover your cisterns and disconnect the connections to prevent ash from entering them.
- ✓ Prepare a shelter plan for the members of your household : where can you take shelter in the house ? How and where to evacuate to a refuge area ?

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Check out the special infographic
on the emergency kit !

Prepare your emergency kit for a period of 3 days, to cover your five essential needs :

- Hydration (drinking water)
- Food (non-perishable food)
- Care (first aid kit and medicine)
- Protection (lamp, clothing, and survival blanket)
- Communication (means of signaling your presence).

Remember to include masks in your emergency kit : they will protect you in the event of a volcanic eruption. At least one mask per person per day, for at least 3 days.

Adapt the contents of the kit to the specific needs of each member of your household.



BEHAVIORS TO ADOPT

DURING

A VOLCANIC ERUPTION

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- ✓ **Listen to official instructions.**
- ✓ **If the authorities order an evacuation, leave the designated area without delay with your emergency kit, using the designated evacuation routes. Timing is critical.**
- ✓ **If you are staying at home, close doors and windows tightly and make them airtight : seal the edges with adhesive tape, wet cloths or towels.**
- ✓ **Cover your mouth and nose with a suitable mask or a damp cloth to avoid inhaling the volcanic ash and gases, which are irritating and toxic.**
- ✓ **Protect your eyes with protective eyewear or swimming goggles. Avoid contact lenses.**
- ✓ **Avoid using fans, air conditioners or hairdryers.**
These devices can suck up volcanic ash and release it into the air.
- ✓ **If you are outside, seek solid shelter immediately.**
If no shelter is available, protect your head and throat and look for a hollow or ditch to lie down in, upwind of the volcano.
- ✓ **Under no circumstances should you return to the danger zone without authorisation from the authorities.**



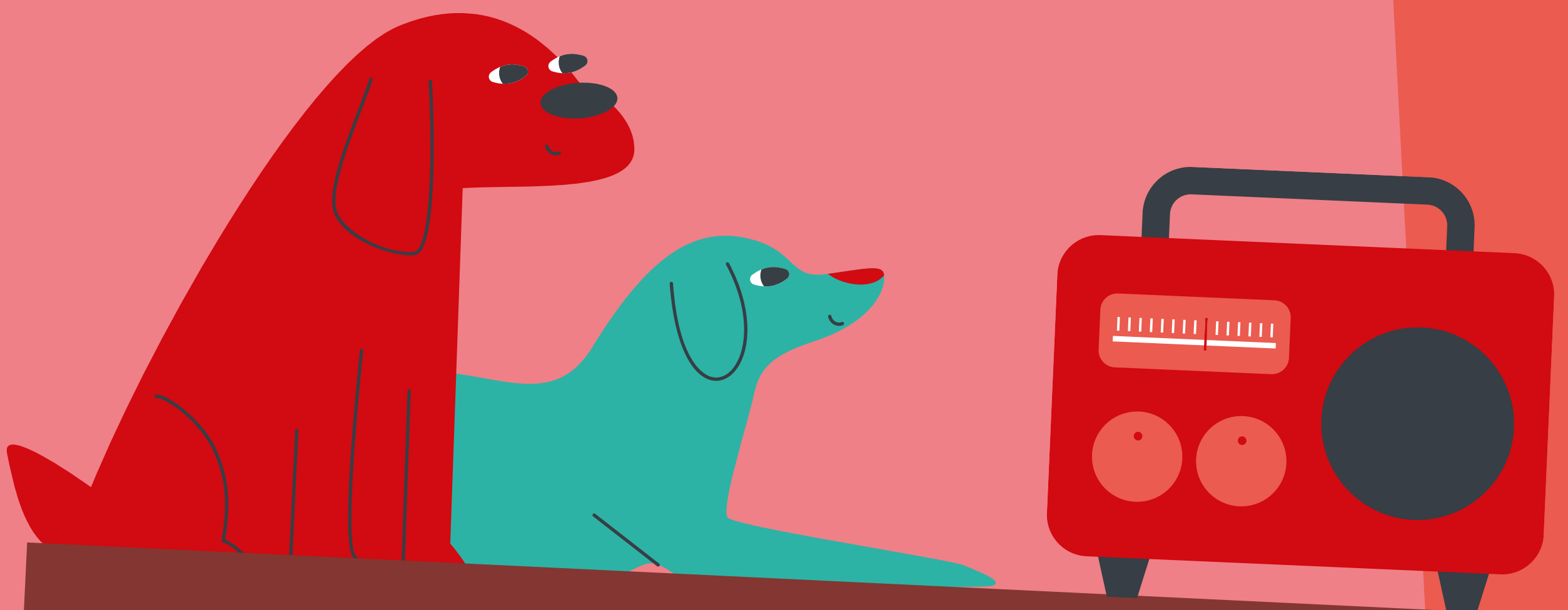
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AFTER

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- ✓ **Stay informed** about developments in the situation and any instructions from the authorities.
- ✓ In the event of an unavoidable departure, **wear a dust mask, goggles and long clothes to protect yourself from the ashes.**
- ✓ **Avoid driving unless absolutely necessary.**
- ✓ **Brush your pets before letting them indoors to avoid spreading the ashes.**



BEHAVIORS TO ADOPT

AFTER

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INDOORS

- ✓ **Ensure good ventilation** by opening doors and windows.
- ✓ **Protect yourself by wearing a mask or damp cloth over your face**, before starting to clean inside.
- ✓ **Use damp methods** (mop, damp cloth) or a Hoover with a fine filter to avoid raising dust from the floor and furniture.
- ✓ **Wash your clothes in small quantities** with detergent.
Washing smaller loads reduces wear and tear on your machine and clothes, and ensures better cleaning and rinsing.

OUTDOORS

- ✓ **Regularly clean roofs, gutters and drains** to avoid build-up, using a safety harness if possible.
- ✓ **Dampen the ashes on the ground**, without soaking them, to limit their dispersal, remove them with a shovel and broom in thick plastic bags.



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The Ready 360°- Phase 2 project is co-financed by the INTERREG Caribbean program through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

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