



RÍKISLÖGREGLUSTJÓRINN

*National Commissioner of the Icelandic
Police*

STATUS REPORT

24 May 2011, 18:00
Eruption in Grímsvötn



Summary

- **Volcanic activity reduced considerably**
- **Ash fall in Southeast Iceland**
- **Main highway opened tonight**
- **Measurements of water and veterinary assistance offered**

Volcanic plume

The ash plume has reduced considerably since the beginning of the eruption. The estimated height of the plume is 2-3 km, down from 20 km Saturday night, but briefly reached 7 km altitude earlier today. The plume does not reach high altitude winds. It is hardly visible on satellite images due to weather conditions, but low level ash clouds are detected 800 km south of Iceland.

Volcanic ash

Based on plume height, the estimated magma discharge rate equals 10-70 tonnes/s of ash, only detectable in the area close to the eruption. However, ash from the first 36 hours is still in the atmosphere and causing diminished visibility in the area closest to the eruption site, down to 100-200 metres and some interruptions to air-traffic further afield.

For further information see the Icelandic Met Office www.imo.is , The Environment Agency www.ust.is and <http://kort.vista.is/> . The inhabitants of the area are advised to study information on ash fall, available on the website www.almannavarnir.is.

Eruption site

Seismic tremor at the Grímsfjall station has been fairly stable since yesterday afternoon. No earthquakes were recorded in the volcano today. Based on the development of plume height, ash fall in inhabited areas in Iceland, number of lightning strikes, seismic tremor and ground deformation, it is inferred that the strength of the eruption continues to decline, with present explosive activity only a small fraction of its initial values.

Weather forecast

In the evening, wind will go down. Cloudy. Wednesday is expected to be cloudy, temperature 7-10 C and light wind.

Transportation

The road from Vík in the west to Freysnes in the east will be opened at 19:00 GMT. For further information: www.vegagerdin.is.

Air traffic

Keflavik international airport has been open since yesterday at 18:00.

Life stock

A few farm animals have been killed, mainly due to accidents, not poisonous substances in the ash.

Emergency centers and psycho-social support

The Red Cross is operating disaster service centers at two locations; Kirkjubæjarklaustur and Hofgarður. Psycho-social support teams are located at Klaustur, Vík , Höfn and Hvolsvöllur. Furthermore the Red Cross has activated a 24 hour hotline, 1717, in order to supply general information to inhabitants and tourists in the area.

Requests for assistance

People who need assistance from the police and rescue teams should call 1-1-2.

Further information

Status reports will be published by the National Crisis Coordination Center in Skógarhlíð during the eruption. Civil Protection and Emergency Management: www.almannavarnir.is and www.sst.is