
VOLCANOES AND YOU

LIVING MORE SAFELY WITH NATURAL HAZARDS



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WHAT IS A VOLCANO?

A volcano is a mountain that can explode hot rock, ash and gas. Volcanic eruptions can affect large areas. Most areas where people live in East New Britain are likely to be affected by a volcanic eruption at some time so you and your community should be prepared.

Volcanoes have many hazards. Ash fall, pyroclastic flows, lava flows, landslides and mudflows (lahars) are just a few of the potential hazards.

Volcanic eruptions can cause buildings to collapse, isolate communities, cut off power, destroy food gardens and pollute water supplies. Volcanic eruptions can last for a long time and the ash can make you sick.

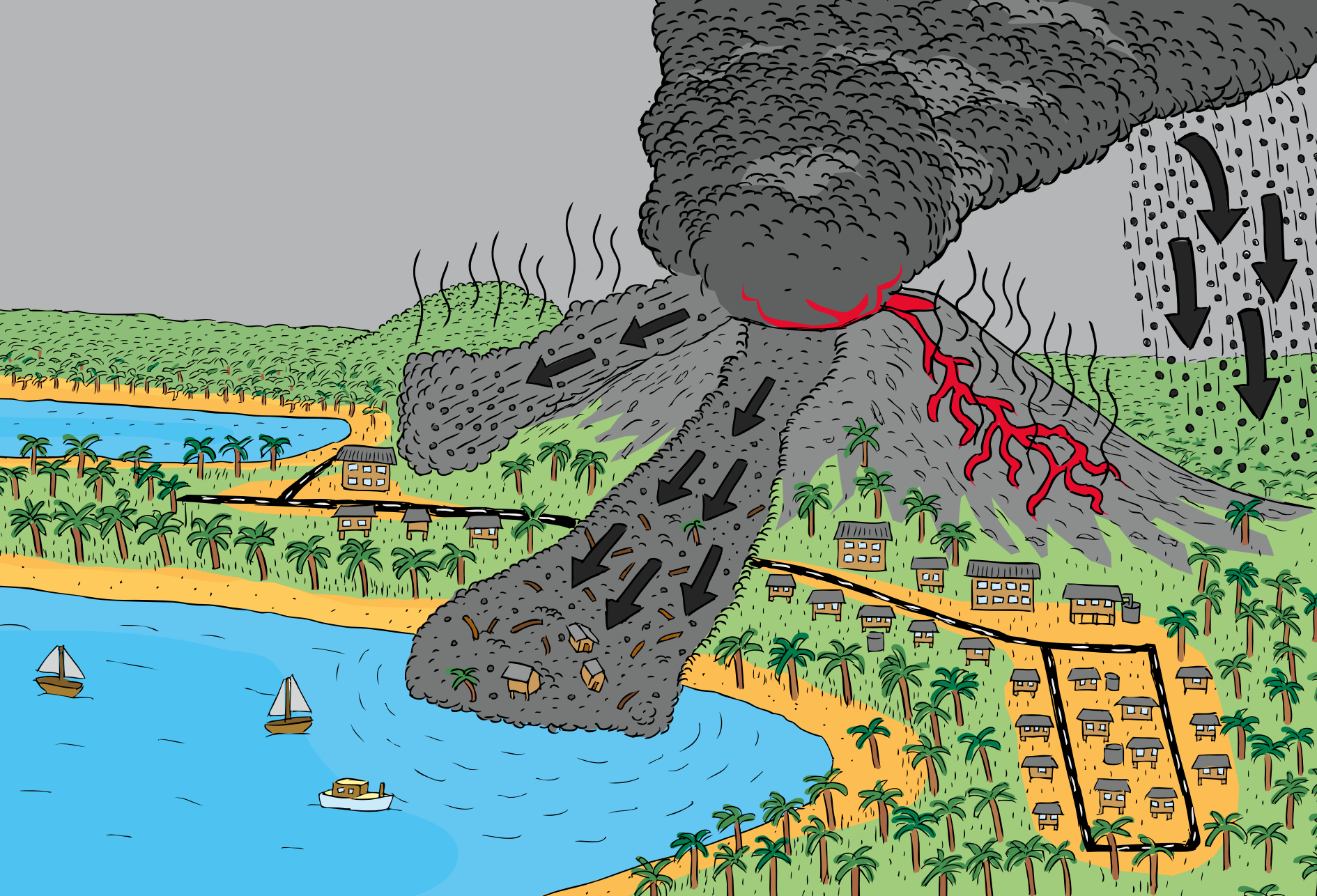
Close to a volcano, there are many more hazards and the hazards are generally worse the closer you are. The area

near the volcano is generally evacuated as there is total destruction. Further away from a volcano, people can learn to live with ash fall.

Volcanic ash is not like fire ash. Volcanic ash is made up of rock. It is heavy when it builds up and can hurt the body or damage metal if it comes into contact with it. Thick layers of volcanic ash can collapse buildings.

A lahar is a flow made up of volcanic material and water. Lahars can happen at any time, and do not need an eruption to happen.

Pyroclastic flows are fast-moving flows of very hot gas, ash, and rock that travel down the side of a volcano.





WHAT YOU CAN DO BEFORE

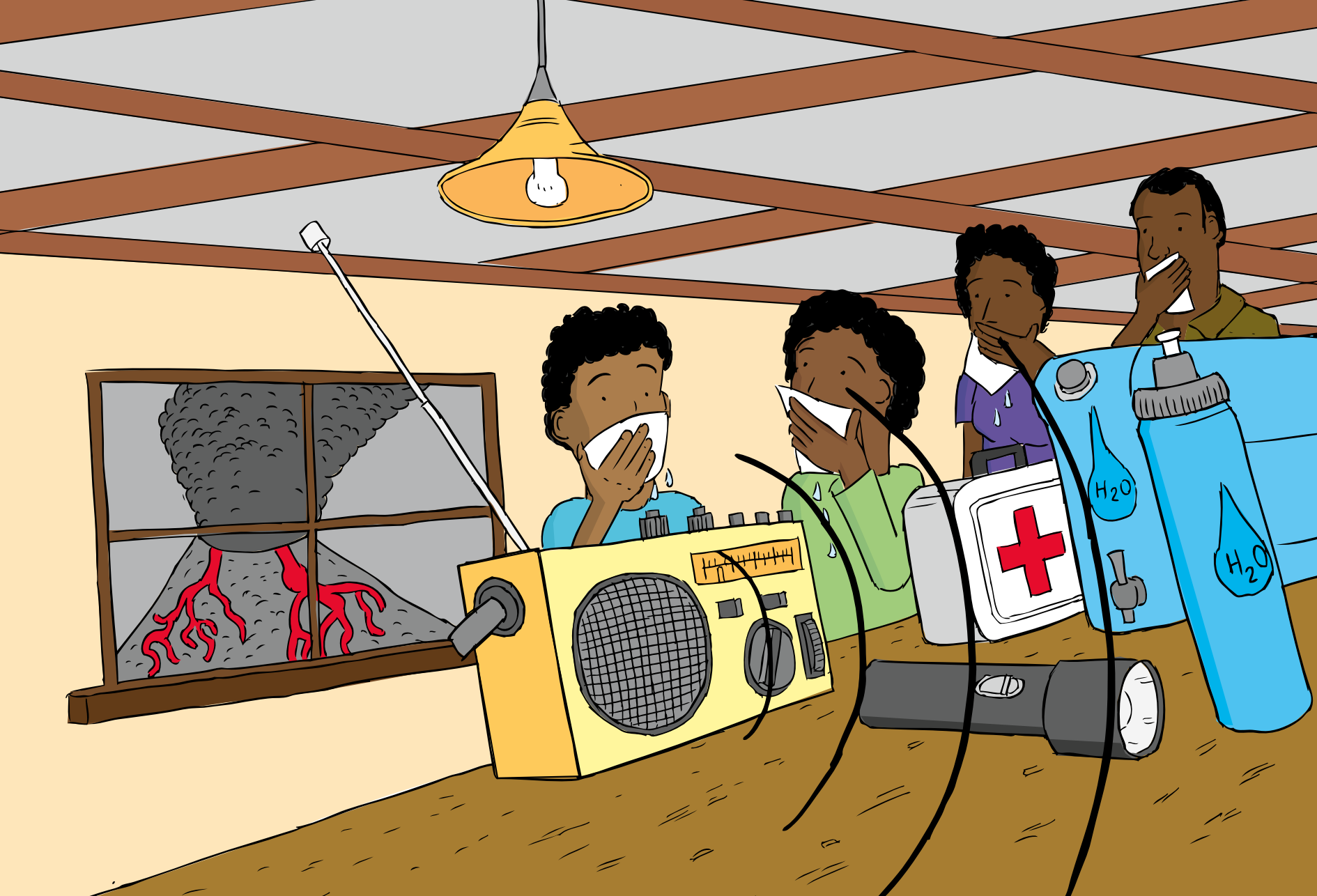
- » Make sure you have a first aid kit, radio and torch with batteries
- » Have and practise a plan for what you will do if there is a volcanic eruption, with designated evacuation safe places
- » If possible, have emergency stocks of food and clean water
- » Buildings in known volcanic zones are more safe if they have steep pitch roofs.





WHAT YOU CAN DO DURING

- » Keep water stored in sealed containers to stop it from becoming polluted
- » Listen to your radio to get information
- » Listen to instructions given by authorities and your village leader
- » In evacuation areas, clear roofs often to stop roofs from collapsing
- » Cover your mouth and nose with a mask or damp cloth so you do not inhale ash
- » Protect your body from falling ash with long sleeves and long pants
- » Keep vehicle engines off. Volcanic ash can damage engines.





WHAT YOU CAN DO AFTER

- » Clear roofs of ash fall
- » Cover your mouth and nose when cleaning up
- » Follow instructions from authorities
- » Be aware that water may be polluted and drink only clean water if possible



A large, abstract red watercolor splash or ink blot covers the left and center portions of the page, creating a textured, organic shape. The right side of the page is plain white.

REMEMBER

- » Cover your mouth
- » Protect your body with long sleeves and long pants
- » Keep vehicle engines off.

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