



**NATIONAL COMMISSIONER OF THE ICELANDIC POLICE**  
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



**THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD OF THE ICELANDIC CIVIL PROTECTION**

**Date:** 24.11.2014    **Time:** 09:30    **Location:** Crisis Coordination Centre, Skogarhlid.

**Regarding:** Volcanic activity in the Bardarbunga system.

**Attending:** Scientists from Icelandic Met Office and the Institute of Earth Sciences University of Iceland along with representatives from the Icelandic Civil Protection, the Environmental Agency of Iceland and the Directorate of Health.

**Main points**

- Volcanic eruption in Holuhraun
- Air quality
- Scenarios

**Notes**

- The volcanic eruption in Holuhraun continues to be strong. The lava flow and the gas emission in the volcanic plume is more fluctuating than it has been. There is a double pulse cycle, or fluctuation, one takes hours and the other takes between 10 and 20 seconds.
- Seismic activity in Bardarbunga continues to be strong. The biggest earthquakes that was detected since noon on Friday, were of magnitude M5,1 on Sunday, 23. November at 09:22 and this morning, 24. November, at 09:03 of magnitude M5,4. In total 36 earthquakes bigger then M4,0 were detected over the period and 56 earthquakes between M3,0-3,9. In total about 250 earthquakes were detected in Bardarbunga since noon on Friday.
- First analysis from a new seismograph, which was installed on Bardarbunga on 11. November, shows that the earthquakes in the Bardarbunga caldera originate in the uppermost three kilometres of the earth's crust. This indicates that the magma is closer to the earth's surface than was estimated before.
- On Saturday, 22 November, at 00:51 an earthquake of magnitude M1,7 was detected in the dyke. In total about 80 earthquakes were detected in the dyke and around the eruption site in Holuhraun since Friday.
- The subsidence of the Bardarbunga caldera and tectonics continues with similar rate as last few weeks. Tectonics movements show depression towards Bardarbunga.

**Air quality:**

- Today (Monday) gas pollution is expected to the north and later east from the eruption site. Tomorrow (Tuesday) gas pollution is expected mainly to the north of the eruption site.
- The Icelandic Met Office provides two-day forecasts on gas dispersion from the eruptive site in Holuhraun. Most reliable are the forecast maps approved by meteorologist on duty, see [Gas forecast](#). And although still being developed further, an automatic forecast, see [Gas model](#), is also available (trial run, see [disclaimer](#)).
- Measurements of air quality can be found on the webpage [www.airquality.is](http://www.airquality.is) Data from handheld gas monitors, spread around the country, can also be found on that page
- Instructions:
  - People who feel discomfort are advised to stay indoors, close their windows, turn up the heat and turn off



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air conditioning. Use periods of good air quality to ventilate the house. People experiencing adverse effects should be in immediate contact with their healthcare centre. Measurements of air quality can be found on the webpage [www.airquality.is](http://www.airquality.is) The Meteorological Office issues forecast on its web-page and warnings if conditions change to the worse.

- Instructions from [The Environment Agency of Iceland](#) and [Chief Epidemiologist](#) can be found on their web-sites.
  - Check the Icelandic Met Office forecasts for sulphuric gas dispersion on the web as described above.
  - Handheld meters have been distributed around the country for SO<sub>2</sub> measurements three times a day.
  - Information and any questions on air pollution can be sent to The Environment Agency through the email [gos@ust.is](mailto:gos@ust.is). The Environment Agency is especially looking for information from people who have been in contact with high concentrations of gas; where they were, at what time it happened, how the gas cloud looked (colour and thickness of the cloud) and how they were affected by it.
- Three scenarios are considered most likely:
    - The eruption on Holuhraun declines gradually and subsidence of the Bardarbunga caldera stops.
    - Large-scale subsidence of the caldera occurs, prolonging or strengthening the eruption on Holuhraun. In this situation, it is likely that the eruptive fissure would lengthen southwards under Dyngjujokull, resulting in a jokulhlaup and an ash-producing eruption. It is also possible that eruptive fissures could develop in another location under the glacier.
    - Large-scale subsidence of the caldera occurs, causing an eruption at the edge of the caldera. Such an eruption would melt large quantities of ice, leading to a major jokulhlaup, accompanied by ash fall.

Other scenarios cannot be excluded.

- **From the Icelandic Met Office:** The Aviation Colour Code for Bardarbunga remains at 'orange'.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 of November.

The National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police, Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management  
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