



Montserrat Volcano Observatory

22 September 2017
9:00 am

MVO Weekly Report for the Period to 15 to 22 September 2017

Activity at the Soufrière Hills Volcano remains low.

The seismic network recorded one volcano-tectonic earthquake this week.

No measurements of the SO₂ flux have been made since 14 September.

The smell of volcanic gases has been noticeable at times during the week when the volcanic plume was blown over inhabited areas.

Hurricane Maria, a Category 5 Hurricane, passed south of Montserrat on 19 September, bringing tropical-storm-force winds and very heavy rainfall. The maximum wind gust recorded at MVO was 80 mph (130 km/hr). There were lahars in all drainage valleys around the volcano and the vehicle crossings in the Belham Valley were cut by gullies up to two metres deep.

Some of MVO's monitoring equipment was damaged during the storm, including much of our communications network, and we are working to restore full monitoring capability. Despite these losses, our capacity to provide crucial advice to the government and people of Montserrat has not been significantly impaired.

Pyroclastic flows can occur at any time without warning on any side of the volcano, including Gages from where they can travel rapidly into Plymouth. Tracks across the Belham Valley can be destroyed or heavily modified by flash flooding or lahars, and caution should be exercised crossing the valley during and after rainfall.

The Hazard Level is 1. There is no access to Zone V, including Plymouth. Maritime Zones E and W are daytime transit only between sunrise and sunset (boats may sail through the zone but must not stop). Anyone who ignores these restrictions is liable to be prosecuted.

This report along with additional information on the Soufrière Hills Volcano and the Hazard Level System can be found at the MVO website: www.mvo.ms. Old weekly reports can be downloaded from http://www.mvo.ms/pub/Activity_Reports/. You can also follow @mvoms on both Facebook and Twitter.

Roderick Stewart
Director

Seismic Activity (number of events)

	This week	Last week	Last 4 weeks (weekly average)
Rockfalls	0	2	1
VT earthquakes	1	3	1
Hybrid earthquakes	0	0	0
LP earthquakes	0	0	0

Sulphur Dioxide Flux (tonnes per day)

	This week	Last week	Last 4 weeks
Average	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maximum	n/a	n/a	n/a
Minimum	n/a	n/a	n/a

Note : The numbers provided in the tables above are provisional and may be subject to change after further analysis of the data.