

# New eruption at Indonesia volcano spreads ash for miles

August 2 2017

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Residents ride in a truck as Mount Sinabung releases pyroclastic flows during its eruption in Karo, North Sumatra, Indonesia, Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017. The volcano blasted volcanic ash as high as 4.2 kilometers (2.6 miles), one of its biggest eruptions in the past several months of high activity. (AP Photo/Endro Rusharyanto)

Mount Sinabung on the Indonesian island of Sumatra blasted volcanic ash as high as 4.2 kilometers (2.6 miles) on Wednesday, one of its

biggest eruptions in the past several months of high activity.

Isya Nurrahmat Dana, an official at a volcano monitoring post in North Sumatra province, said at least 19 eruptions followed by [lava flows](#) were recorded by midday Wednesday.

Hot ash tumbled down the mountain's slopes as far as 4.5 kilometers (2.8 miles) east and southeast into the Labortus River.

Media reports said students from an elementary school in Kuta Rakyat were sent home because [volcanic ash](#) covering the [village](#) was considered dangerous. There were no reports of casualties.

National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said thousands of people in 10 villages were directly affected by ash fall from the latest eruption.

He warned villagers to stay out of a danger zone that extends as far as 7 kilometers (4.4 miles) from the peak.

Nugroho said villagers urgently need face masks and clean water.

He called on people to be vigilant about the possibility of flash floods and lava flows because Wednesday's [eruption](#) created a natural dam on the upper reaches of the Laborus River.

The 2,460-meter (8,070-foot) high Sinabung burst back to life in 2010 after a long period of dormancy. The volcano has been erupting sporadically ever since, killing 17 people and forcing more than 30,000 to evacuate their villages.



Villagers gather in front of a house as they watch Mount Sinabung releasing a pyroclastic flow during its eruption in Karo, North Sumatra, Indonesia, Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017. The volcano blasted volcanic ash as high as 4.2 kilometers (2.6 miles), one of its biggest eruptions in the past several months of high activity. (AP Photo/Endro Rusharyanto)

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