

Volcano ash blankets Philippine towns after second eruption this week

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Workers sweep an ash-covered highway in Juban after the eruption of Bulusan volcano in the Philippines.

A volcano in the Philippines spewed a huge column of ash into the sky on Sunday, blanketing a region still recovering from last week's eruption.

The blast from Bulusan volcano lasted 18 minutes, the Philippine seismological agency said, impairing road visibility and forcing airlines to cancel flights.

On June 5, Mount Bulusan sent a grey plume shooting up at least one kilometre (0.6 miles) and covered 10 villages with ash.

Residents of Juban town in Sorsogon province, still reeling from last week's [eruption](#), were woken up Sunday by the volcano's thundering.

"I thought it was just raining, but when I looked outside there was ash everywhere," resident Antonio Habitan told AFP. "Our river was once clear but now it is ash-coloured."

No casualties were reported, but the seismological agency raised the alert level to one on the five-level system, indicating "low-level unrest".

"We still can't say that it is over. It's still possible that this eruption could be followed by another one, that's why we need to be careful with the Bulusan volcano," agency head Renato Solidum told local radio station DZBB.

Emergency workers were deployed to clean ash-laden roads and guide drivers struggling to see oncoming vehicles.



Officials guide motorists on an ash-choked highway in Juban.

Five flights in the area were cancelled.

Juban's local disaster office said 366 people were in [emergency shelters](#), with most evacuated days before the eruption due to a series of volcanic earthquakes.

Bulusan [volcano](#) has been active in recent years, with a dozen similar eruptions recorded in 2016 and 2017.

The Philippines is located in the seismically active Pacific "Ring of Fire" and has over 20 [active volcanoes](#).

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