

Colombia urges evacuation near volcano

April 29 2023



The Nevado del Ruiz volcano emits a cloud of ash in Murillo, Colombia on April 6, 2023.

Authorities in Colombia on Saturday recommended that towns closest to a rumbling, notorious volcano be evacuated, ahead of a possible eruption.

The Disaster Risk Management Office said it was moving to evacuate communities that are located within 15 kilometers (nine miles) from the main crater of three that make up the Nevado del Ruiz volcano in the Colombian Andes.

Seismic activity has increased at the volcano, which killed 25,000 people in an eruption in 1985.

That blast was the worst natural disaster in Colombian history and one of the deadliest volcanic eruptions of the 20th century.

There has recently been a "significant increase in [seismic activity](#)," the ministry of mines said in a statement while Colombia's SGC geological service warned of a "probable eruption within days or weeks."

The 5,300-meter (17,400-foot) colossus in western Colombia is one of the many volcanoes along the Ring of Fire, a path around the Pacific basin characterized by [active volcanoes](#) and frequent earthquakes.

On November 13, 1985, it erupted and emitted so much heat that it melted the snow that caps the mountain.

This triggered a cascading wall of mud that swallowed the town of Armero, killing half its population of 50,000.

© 2023 AFP

Citation: Colombia urges evacuation near volcano (2023, April 29) retrieved 23 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2023-04-colombia-urges-evacuation-volcano.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.