



Cities on Volcanoes 9
November 20-25, 2016
Puerto Varas, Chile

'Understanding volcanoes and society: the key for risk mitigation'



Raising volcanic-hazards awareness among children in rural areas

Sandra I. Delgado Vivián¹ and Hugo Delgado Granados¹

¹Periódico Reforma, México; Instituto de Geofísica, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Key words: Volcanic hazards, children, rural environment, disaster prevention

Popocatepetl volcano (Mexico) represents an important volcanic hazard and the inherent risk is a challenge in several ways. An important issue is to link the hazards assessment with the mitigation of risk. Communication of volcanic hazards among the people is very important for the population living at risk in the neighborhood of large stratovolcanoes such as Popocatepetl. No emergency or contingency plan can be successful if the population does not know and understand the hazards in their vicinity, and least of all the people do not become conscious about the mitigation plans for effectively put them at works when the time comes for them to act. Authorities spend a lot of efforts and resources for the dissemination of knowledge on hazards and prevention plans. However, most of the times, people do not seem to react favorable to training. Some civil protection officials become frustrated because people declare that they do not know what to do under eruptive circumstances. A way to tackle the problem is to educate the children. This is the part of population that eventually would react and actually may train and educate the adults starting with their parents at home. This contribution shows the results from drills with children at Tetela del Volcán, Morelos (Mexico), where they act as Scientists, Authorities, Media and People facing an eruptive event.