



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

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



The evacuation Route Map In Case of Sudden Eruption for Tourists and Climbers of Mount Fuji, Japan

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Keywords: Mt. Fuji, climbers, evacuation, route map, sudden eruption

Mt. Fuji is the highest active volcano in Japan at 3,776 m a.s.l. Approximately three million people visit the Mt. Fuji fifth station in a year and more than two hundred thousands of these people climb to the top of the mountain during the summer. After the sudden eruption of Mt. Ontake on September 27, 2014 in which more than 50 people were killed, it has become necessary to prepare an evacuation plan for climbers and tourists in case of a sudden eruption of Mt. Fuji. Therefore we have to supply the safety evacuation routes for them. We chose ten eruption scenarios which could possibly affect the climbing trails and roads of Mt. Fuji from the eruption history of the last 3000 years. We then selected the evacuation route for each eruption scenario and produced the evacuation scenario map. Yamanashi and Shizuoka prefectures published each evacuation route map for climbers and tourists in 2015, then they combined the two maps into one before the 2016 climbing season. The map also shows volcanic alert levels, potential volcanic events, roads and climbing trails and how to evacuate in case of a sudden eruption during climbing. The map is distributed to climbers at the entrance to climbing trails.