



Cities on Volcanoes 9  
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*'Understanding volcanoes and society: the key for risk mitigation'*



## **Effects of May-June 2016 Ash, from Turrialba Volcano over half Eastern Central Valley: Costa Rica.**

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Effects of may-june 2016 eruptions from Turrialba volcano on rural and urban areas, east of the Central Valley, were documented randomly; in parallel to the occurrence of material emission and emplacement. Despite the rainy season, ash falling caused severe disruption of life routine for dozens of important communities east of San Jose; capital city of Costa Rica; located 40 kms west of the volcano. Ash falling over infrastructure, agriculture and pasture land impacted acutely over the first 15 kms west of the volcano; on rural and protected forested areas. Although there were no reports of cattle dying by starvation many may have been affected by dehydration, rumen blockages and minor teeth abration. Enhanced negative effects of eruptions were diminished by heavy rains that washed away significative amounts of ash on potato, cabbage and commercial grass. Electricity supply was intermittently disrupted by insulator flashover due to overcharged lines. In the vicinity of the volcano, single transmission lines were faulty affecting daily economic activities and energy supply for volcano monitoring equipment. In this same area water supply was momentarily contaminated from the stream-fed and spring intakes. From 15 to 30 kms west of the volcano the impact diminished due to the thinner layers of ash although the effects augmented due to the densely populated urban areas. Our talk will depict direct effects on rural and urban areas related to specific events occurred at the end of may and first half of june 2016. Plenty of visual material will be presented to illustrate the follow up of this renewed volcanic activity.