

## **Building Volcanic Hazard Awareness In Mendoza, Argentina: From Quizapu Eruption To Laguna Del Maule Unrest**

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The northern part of the Southern Volcanic Zone (34°-36°S) includes ~10 active volcanoes, which have impacted Mendoza province to various degrees. Most of them show a postglacial eruptive record of dominantly silicic explosive activity. However, as the low-frequency historic record tends to minimize the perception of the volcanic risk, it is important to develop strategies to increase awareness among the general population of the hazards and risks associated with living close to volcanoes.

On 10<sup>th</sup> April 1932, the eruption of Quizapu shocked a large region in central Argentina. In Mendoza, people were terrified by this unexpected and unknown phenomenon of volcanic ashfall. “Los Andes” newspaper featured fabulous coverage with the journalists daily reporting from the remote Andes.

After 59 years, on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1991, the short-lived phreatomagmatic Planchón Peteroa eruption impacted a small area in south Mendoza, including the city of Malargüe. Once again, the population “discovered” a “new” volcano and faced its hazards. This event triggered several community-oriented actions toward a better understanding of explosive eruptions. An unprecedented meeting (Primeras Jornadas de Vulcanismo, Medio Ambiente y Defensa Civil) was held at Malargüe in 1992, bringing together the principal actors in volcanic hazard mitigation. SEGEMAR promoted periodic courses, talks, conferences and media interviews in Mendoza city and Malargüe in order to keep alive the popular interest in volcanoes and related risks during long repose times.

In 2007, significant InSar inflation at Laguna del Maule Volcanic Field caught the attention of the scientific community. Since 2011, geological and geophysical research has been carried out in the framework of an international collaborative project (SEGEMAR, SERNAGEOMIN, USGS, University of Wisconsin). Periodic talks have attended the local demand. Our main challenge is to provide scientific information and avoid the prediction of extremely catastrophic scenarios, which may cause unnecessary panic among the potentially affected population.