

Management of the volcanic crisis at Popocatepetl (2012 and 2013) and Colima (2015) volcanoes

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The management of volcanic crisis in México is not standardized, and depends heavily on Civil Protection authorities, who base their decisions on the recommendations made by scientific committees. These may or may not be a part of the Civil Protection system, and the scientific interests of their members may or may not be directly related with volcano monitoring and early warning. The decision-making authorities frequently are changed depending on their political affiliations and the political party currently governing. While monitoring of Popocatepetl volcano is under the direct responsibility of the National Disaster Prevention Center (CENAPRED), which is a part of the National Civil Protection system, other active volcanoes in México are monitored, if at all, by earth-science departments of local universities, frequently with instruments and networks provided by individual scientists, and which are not specifically designed to provide early warning to the population at risk. The volcanic crisis which occurred at Popocatepetl in 2012 and 2013 illustrate the difficulties caused by changes in the personnel who make the decisions, while the crisis at Colima volcano in 2015 exemplifies the conflicts that can arise due to the interaction of the Federal Civil Protection authorities with the local scientists and committees. The specific characteristics of each of these volcanic crises will be given, and an analysis of the Civil Protection response for each of them will be presented.