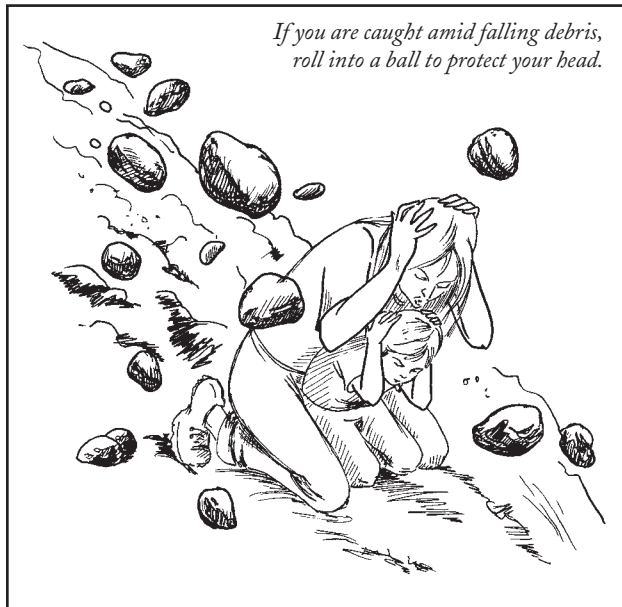


# HOW TO SURVIVE A VOLCANIC ERUPTION

## **1 Watch out for falling rocks, trees, and debris.**

If you are caught amid falling debris, roll into a ball to protect your head. If you are trapped near a stream, watch out for mudflows. (Mudflows are mudslides caused by a large volume of melted snow or ice combined with rocks, dirt, and other debris.) Move up slope, especially if you hear the roar of a mudflow.



## **2 If you are in the path of lava, try to get out of its path in any way possible.**

You will not be able to outrun the lava, so do not try to race it downhill. If you are near a depression or valley that might divert the flow from you, try to get to the safe side.

## **3 Move indoors as soon as possible.**

If you are already inside, stay there and move to a higher floor, if possible. Close all doors and windows, and move any cars or machinery indoors, if there is time.

## **4 Do not sit or lie on the floor or ground.**

It is possible to be overcome by volcanic fumes. The most dangerous gas is carbon dioxide: It does not have a strong odor, and it is denser than air, so it collects near the ground.

## **5 Evacuate the area, but only if authorities tell you to do so.**

Your best chance of survival is to use a car to drive to a safer area, but even a car may not be fast enough to outpace a lava flow. Some flows travel at 100 to 200 miles per hour. Since volcanic ash can quickly clog the radiator and engine of your car, avoid driving except to evacuate.

## Be Aware

Volcanoes can cause all kinds of secondary damage, including mudslides, earthquakes, tidal waves, and dangerous acid rain. If you will be spending time in a volcanic region, have the following emergency supplies at hand:

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Emergency food and water
- Non-electric can opener
- Essential medicines
- Dust masks
- Sturdy shoes
- Goggles
- Portable oxygen tank

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