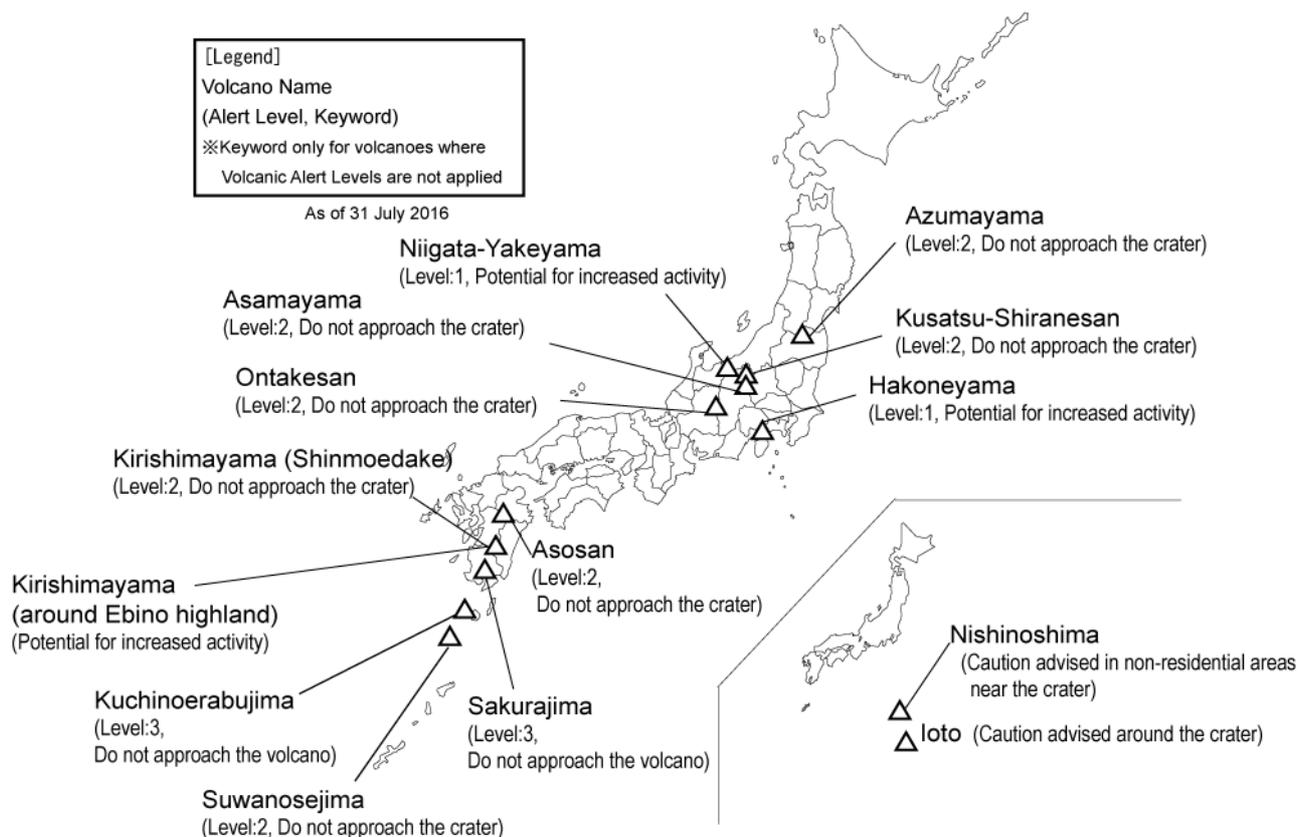


Monthly Volcanic Activity Report (July 2016)

Japan Meteorological Agency



Azumayama (Alert Level: 2)

Fumarolic and geothermal activity in and around the Oana crater has remained at relatively high levels. The potential for small eruptions around the Oana crater remains.

Kusatsu-Shiranesan (Alert Level: 2)

Thermal activity remains on the northeastern side and the northern wall of the Yugama crater and on the north-to-northeastern slope of the Mizugama crater. According to the Tokyo Institute of Technology, compositions of gas in a fumarolic area to the north of the Yugama crater and the chemical composition of water in the crater have shown changes indicating ongoing increased volcanic activity, and the water temperature in the crater has remained higher than normal.

Asamayama (Alert Level: 2)

The number of imperceptible volcanic earthquakes in very shallow parts immediately under the summit crater has remained high, and volcanic activity is now quite high as a result.

The potential for small eruptions affecting areas around the crater remains.

Niigata-Yakeyama (Alert Level: 1)

A field survey conducted on 12 July revealed traces of muddy water considered to be flowing from around a fumarole on the eastern slope of the summit. The water flowed around 300 m downward vertically and 400 m horizontally from the fumarole with unknown timing. Some is thought to have flowed from the fumarole on 19 July, and very small amounts of volcanic ash were reported around 1.5 km SSE of the summit on 21 July. Accordingly, very small eruptions probably occurred in July.

Plume height from the fumarole on the eastern slope of summit has relatively high since summer 2015 and the volume of plume has shown an increasing trend since late December 2015. Continuous GNSS observation data has showed the extension of the baseline across Niigata-Yakeyama from January 2016.

After increasing on 1 May volcanic seismicity has declined since 2 May, but has remained at relatively higher level after 2015 than those observed before 2014.

Ontakesan (Alert Level: 2)

No eruptions have been recorded since October 2014, indicating a declining trend in volcanic activity. The potential for small eruptions remains as plume activity from a line of craters and seismic activity have been ongoing.

Hakoneyama (Alert Level: 1)

Volcanic seismicity has remained at low levels. No remarkable changes have been seen in data of ground deformation.

However, fumarolic activity on some fumaroles around the Owakudani has remained at high levels.

Nishinoshima (Near-crater Warning)

Eruptions with projectile ejections and lava flows occurred frequently from November 2013 onward, but no eruptions or lava flows have been observed since late November 2015. Ground surface temperature has remained low since December 2015. Aerial observation conducted on 19 July revealed no fumarole activities and volcanic gas emissions.

As clear volcanic activity has declined to low levels, the potential for eruptions is considered low. However, volcanic gases and plumes were occasionally observed and the potential for small eruption cannot be eliminated.

Ioto (Near-crater Warning)

Volcanic seismicity has remained at relatively high levels.

Continuous GNSS measurement showed repeated rising trend and static state.

Asosan (Alert Level: 2)

No eruption has been recorded at the Nakadake No.1 crater since the very small eruption on 1 May.

A field survey revealed that hot water covered 70 percent of the Nakadake No.1 crater. Very small sediment blowouts were observed in the crater lake this month in addition to those seen in the previous month. Amplitudes of volcanic tremors remained relatively large from 24 June to 3 July and after 11 July.

Amplitudes of volcanic tremors remained at relatively high levels and amounts of volcanic gas (SO₂) emissions have remained high at the Nakadake No.1 crater, the potential for small eruptions affecting areas around the crater remains.

Kirishimayama (Shinmoedake) (Alert Level: 2)

Volcanic earthquakes occasionally occurred around Shinmoedake.

According to continuous GNSS measurement data, ground deformation indicating deeper magma chamber inflation at several kilometers northwest of Shinmoedake stopped around January 2015. A slight extension had been observed along some baselines around Shinmoedake since May 2015, but it stopped in around October 2015.

Small eruptions may occur at the Shinmoedake crater affecting the area around the crater.

Kirishimayama (around Ebino Highland) (Potential for increased activity)

There were no precursors of any eruption that may affect the area near the crater around Ebino Highland, but expansion of the thermal anomaly area continues.

Sakurajima (Alert Level: 3)

During this reporting period, two explosive eruptions occurred at the Showa crater. No eruptions were observed at the Minamidake summit crater.

Volcanic activity has remained at high levels and data from ground deformation observation show that expansion of the Aira Caldera has continued. The data collected may indicate the potential for volcanic activity at even higher levels.

Kuchinoerabujima (Alert Level: 3) Alert level downgrade from 5 to 3 on 14 June

No eruption has been observed after the very small eruption on 19 June 2015.

No volcanic glows were observed. Thermal infrared observation showed that the temperature around a fissure to the west of the Shindake crater remained low.

Volcanic seismicity near the Shindake crater remained at relatively lower levels than that of before the eruption on August 2014. No volcanic tremors were observed.

Amounts of volcanic gas (SO₂) emissions have been relatively low levels at 200 – 300 tons a day.

The potential for eruptions on the scale of the one that occurred on 29 May 2015 is low from late, but the potential for eruptions remains as amounts of volcanic gas (SO₂) emissions have been at relatively higher levels than that of before the eruption on August 2014.

Suwanosejima (Alert Level: 2)

Eruptions occurred occasionally at the Otake crater.

The potential for eruptions affecting areas around the crater remains.