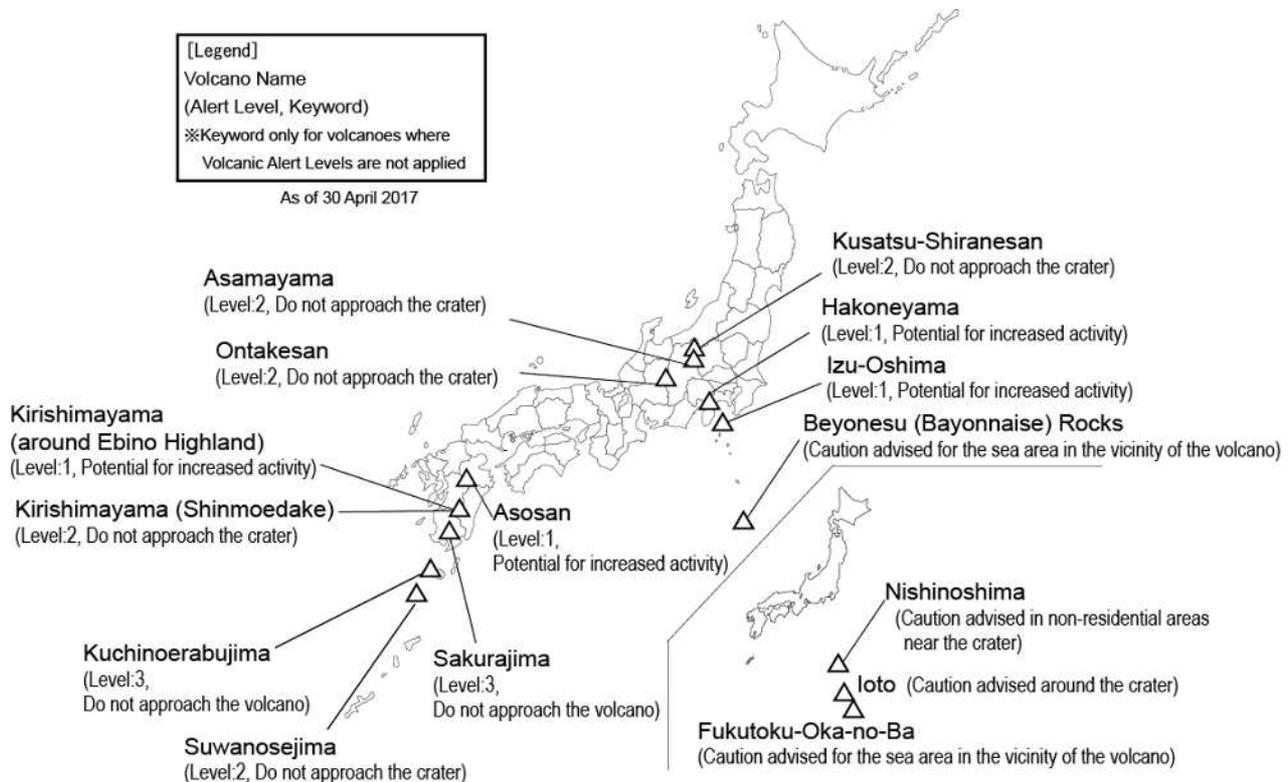


Monthly Volcanic Activity Report (April 2017)

Japan Meteorological Agency



Kusatsu-Shiranesan (Alert Level: 2)

The Tokyo Institute of Technology reported that the concentration of chemical compositions in water in the Yugama crater began to rise in 2014, indicating high-level volcanic activity, but the rise stopped in mid 2016 and a trend of decline began in 2017. Changes in data from continuous geomagnetic total intensity observation (considered indicative of a temperature rise beneath Yugama) were seen from May 2014 but stopped around July 2014.

Although volcanic activity has calmed somewhat, the potential for minor eruptions remains.

Asamayama (Alert Level: 2)

The number of imperceptible volcanic earthquakes in very shallow parts immediately under the summit crater has remained high since April 2015. Also amount of volcanic gas (SO₂) emissions have remained at high levels and weak volcanic glows were occasionally observed, so volcanic activity is now quite high.

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

Ontakesan (Alert Level: 2)

No eruptions have been recorded since October 2014, indicating a declining trend in volcanic activity. However, 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.

Izu-Oshima (Alert Level: 1)

Volcanic seismicity off the western coast increased from 9 to 11 April. The increase subsequently stopped, and a situation similar to that observed previously was seen. A similar series of seismic developments off the western coast was observed in March 2015. Data from ground deformation observation showed that long-term extension of the baseline caused by magma supply to areas deep underground remains ongoing, although fluctuations in the extent of deformation are observed.

Beyonesu (Bayonnaise) Rocks

Minor submarine eruptions may occur in the future.

Nishinoshima (Near-crater Warning) Warning upgrade on 20 April

An eruption was reported from aerial observation conducted by the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) on 20 April. A thermal anomaly at Nishinoshima was identified in Himawari Weather Satellite imagery from the night of 19 April onward.

Due to the potential for continued eruptions, JMA issued a Near-crater Warning (Caution advised in non-residential areas near the crater) at 16:25 and a Volcanic Warning (sea area) at 16:30 on 20 April.

Ioto (Near-crater Warning)

Volcanic seismicity has remained at relatively low levels. Continuous GNSS measurement showed repeated rising trend and static state.

Fukutoku-Oka-no-Ba (Near-sea-area Warning)

According to observations conducted by Japan Coast Guard (JCG), 3rd Regional Coast Guard Headquarters, the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) and JMA so far, discoloration or other anomalies have frequently been identified in the water surrounding Fukutoku-Oka-no-Ba in recent years. Volcanic activity has remained at relatively high levels.

Asosan (Alert Level: 1)

Volcanic activity has remained at relatively high levels since 27 April.

No eruption has been recorded since the eruption on 8 October 2016.

Field surveys conducted on 3, 13 and 19 April revealed that volcanic gas (SO₂) emissions had remained at relatively low levels of 700 – 900 tons a day, but levels on 28 and 30 April were relatively high at 1,500 – 1,700 tons a day.

The number of isolated tremors increased after 27 April (778 events on 29 April), but remained low after 30 April.

No remarkable changes in tiltmeter observation data related to volcanic activity have been seen. The extension of the baseline indicating inflation of a magma chamber, which is considered to be present in deeper parts of Kusasenri, was observed since around July 2016 in the results of continuous GNSS measurement, but has stopped since mid-November.

No signs of eruptions affecting the area around the crater have been seen, but the potential for sediment blowouts and volcanic ash emissions inside the crater is present.

Kirishimayama (around Ebino Highland) (Alert Level: 1)

Expansion of the thermal anomaly zone and increased fumarolic volumes were observed from December 2015 onward. Changes in tiltmeter data from the southwestern side of Ioyama indicated a rising trend around the mountain.

Kirishimayama (Shinmoedake) (Alert Level: 2)

Volcanic earthquakes occasionally occurred around Shinmoedake.

No remarkable changes were observed in ground deformation observation data.

Weak fumes and thermal anomalies were observed in the crater and around the fissure on the western slope as before.

Sakurajima (Alert Level: 3)

At the Showa crater, an eruption occurred at 05:11 on 26 April. This was the first eruptions observed since 26 July 2016 at the Showa crater. From this eruption, small scale eruptions occurred occasionally. The eruptive activity remained at high levels. Two of nineteen eruptions at the Showa crater observed were explosive. Along with an explosive eruption at 11:01 on 28 April, a plume rose to 3,200 m above the crater rim.

Two eruptions occurred at the Minamidake summit crater.

The magma chamber inflation under the Aira Caldera is ongoing. The data collected may indicate a possibility that the eruptions continue.

Kuchinoerabujima (Alert Level: 3)

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

Volcanic seismicity has remained at low levels.

Amounts of volcanic gas (SO₂) emissions had remained 100 - 300 tons a day.

According to a field survey, no remarkable changes were seen in plume emissions and distribution of thermal anomalies.

The potential for eruptions on the scale of the one that occurred on 29 May 2015 is low, but eruptions may still occur because the number of very shallow volcanic earthquakes around the Shindake crater has remained high and volcanic gas (SO₂) emissions have been higher than before the eruption on August 2014.

Suwanosejima (Alert Level: 2)

Eruptions have occasionally occurred at the Otake crater and volcanic activity has remained at high levels.

The potential for eruptions affecting areas around the crater remains.