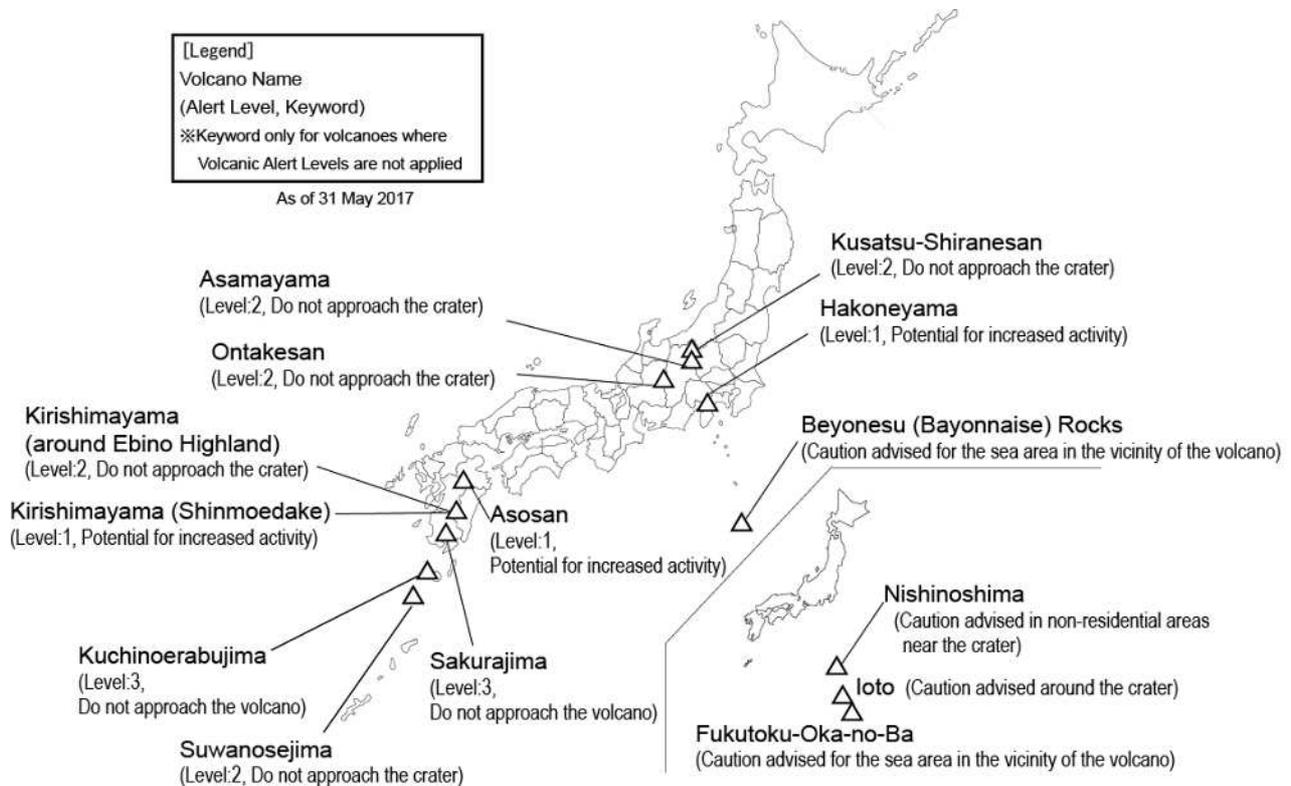


Monthly Volcanic Activity Report (May 2017)

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 a trend of decline began in 2017. Volcanic seismicity has remained at low levels. Data from continuous GNSS observation show that the contracting trend of around Yugama crater was observed.

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.

Beyonesu (Bayonnaise) Rocks

In aerial observation conducted on 2 May in collaboration with Japan Coast Guard (JCG), discoloration and bubbles on the sea surface around Myojin Sho was reported.

Minor submarine eruptions may occur in the future.

Nishinoshima (Near-crater Warning)

Ongoing eruption was reported from aerial observation conducted in collaboration with the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) and the 3rd Regional Coast Guard Headquarters.

There is a possibility that the eruptions continue.

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)

No eruption has been recorded.

Volcanic gas (SO₂) emissions remained at relatively high levels but fluctuated between 700 – 1,700 tons a day.

The number of isolated tremors increased after 27 April (778 events on 29 April), but remained low after 4 May.

Field surveys conducted during this period revealed that green hot water covered 100 percent of the Nakadake No. 1 crater as same as the previous month. No sediment blowouts have been observed.

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: 2) Alert level upgrade from 1 to 2 on 9 May

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 on around the mountain from 25 April. The Earthquake Research Institute (ERI) at the University of Tokyo reported observation of mud-like ejecta in the Ioyama crater.

In recognition of increased volcanic activity in around Ebino Highland (Ioyama) and the possibility of a small eruption, JMA issued a Near-crater Warning at 19:20 on 9 May and raised the Volcanic Alert Level from 1 (Potential for increased activity) to 2 (Do not approach the crater).

Kirishimayama (Shinmoedake) (Alert Level: 1) Alert level downgrade from 2 to 1 on 26 May

No eruption has been recorded since the eruption on 7 September 2011. A slight expansion of the lava accumulation in the crater has stagnated since the summer of 2016. Results from ongoing field surveys conducted near the crater since October 2016 show no remarkable changes in the characteristics of fumaroles or high-temperature zones. No remarkable changes have been seen in seismic activity and data from ground deformation observation. Accordingly, JMA issued a Volcanic Forecast at 14:00 on 26 May and lowered the Volcanic Alert Level from 2 (Do not approach the crater) to 1 (Potential for increased activity).

Sakurajima (Alert Level: 3)

Eruptive activity at Sakurajima has remained at high levels.

9 of 47 eruptions at the Showa crater observed were explosive.

Along with an explosive eruption at 03:20 on 2 May, a plume rose to 4,000 m above the crater rim. Ash fall was reported in Kagoshima city, Hioki city and Ichikikushikino city.

Ballistic projectiles accompanying eruptions on 17, 23 and 25 May reached as far as the fifth station (500 to 800 m from the Showa crater).

Two eruptions occurred at the Minamidake summit crater. Along with an explosive eruption at 12:13 on 5 May, a plume rose to 2,500 m above the crater rim. No explosive eruptions occurred.

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 - 500 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)

Volcanic activity has remained at high levels with two explosive eruptions occurred at the Otake crater.

The potential for eruptions affecting areas around the crater remains.