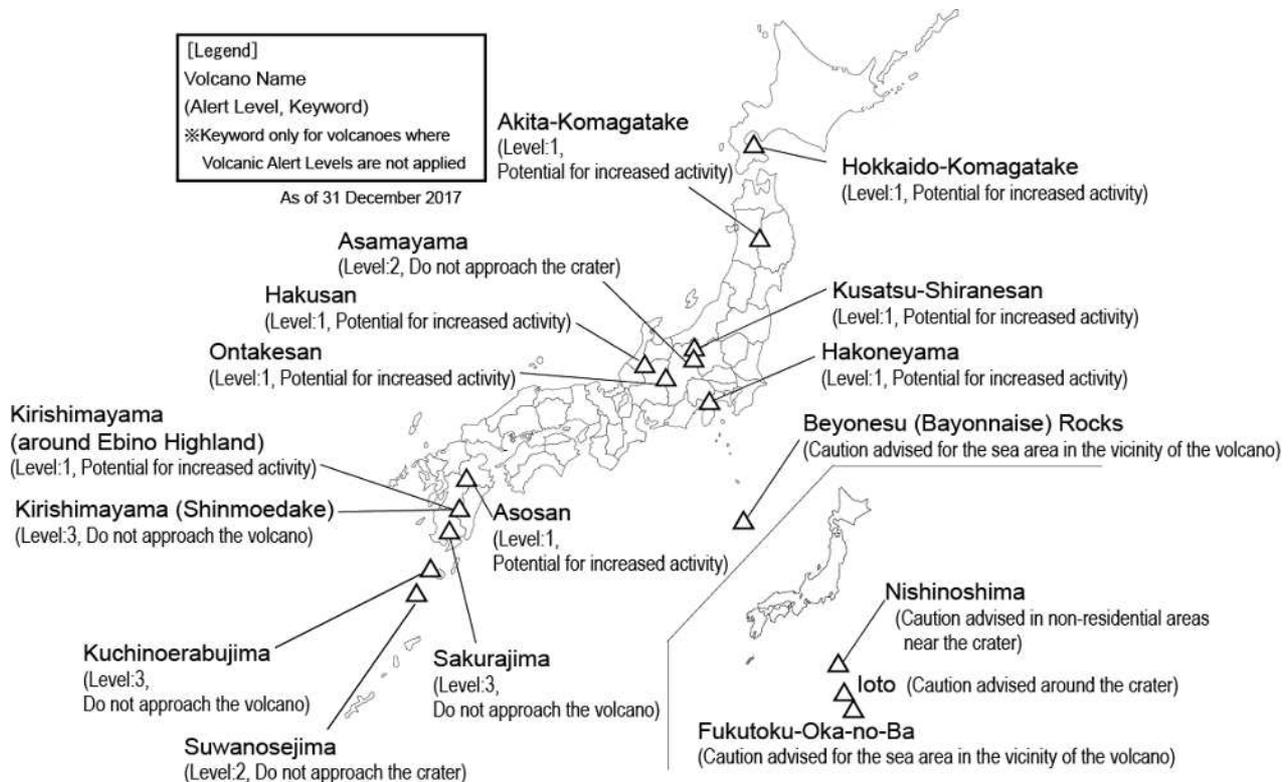


Monthly Volcanic Activity Report (December 2017)

Japan Meteorological Agency



Hokkaido-Komagatake (Alert Level: 1)

Small-amplitude volcanic seismicity immediately under the summit was slightly elevated on 26 November, but has remained low since 27 November. However, six earthquakes occurred on each of three days in December, indicating that the situation has not yet returned to previously observed levels.

Akita-Komagatake (Alert Level: 1)

Volcanic seismicity has remained low. However, no remarkable changes were seen in other data, and there were no signs of activation.

Kusatsu-Shiranesan (Alert Level: 1)

Thermal activity remains high around the Yugama crater and the Mizugama crater.

Asamayama (Alert Level: 2)

The number of imperceptible volcanic earthquakes in very shallow parts immediately under the summit crater has gradually declined since around November 2017. However, amount of volcanic gas (SO₂) emissions have remained at relatively high levels and weak volcanic glows were observed, so volcanic activity is now quite high.

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

Ontakesan (Alert Level: 1)

No eruptions have been recorded since 2014, indicating a declining trend in plume activity and seismic activity beneath the summit.

However, output has continued from some fumarolic holes among the row of craters where the eruption occurred in 2014. The potential for very minor ejections of volcanic ash is present.

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 (Near-sea-area Warning)

According to observations conducted by Japan Coast Guard (JCG) and 3rd Regional Coast Guard Headquarters so far, discoloration or bubbles on the sea surface around Myojin Sho was reported. Minor submarine eruptions may occur in the future.

Nishinoshima (Near-crater Warning)

No eruption from the summit crater has been confirmed since the eruption on 11 August. However, as eruption-related activity of Nishinoshima continued from 2013 to 2015 and related action was recommenced in April 2017, eruptions may resume in the future.

Ioto (Near-crater Warning)

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

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

In aerial observation conducted on 11 December in collaboration with Japan Coast Guard (JCG), discoloration on the sea surface was reported.

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)

Small-amplitude volcanic seismicity has remained generally at high levels.

Volcanic gas (SO₂) emissions had remained at relatively low levels of 600 – 1,100 tons a day.

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 and the results of continuous GNSS measurement related to volcanic activity have been seen.

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)

The frequency of minor earthquakes and other forms of volcanic seismicity increased from 17 to 21 December.

Small-amplitude, low-frequency shallow earthquakes were recorded on 22 December.

A field survey conducted by JMA's Mobile Observation Team (JMA-MOT) revealed a slight expansion of the geothermal field on the east side of Ioyama, but no remarkable changes in thermal anomalies were seen.

Data from continuous GNSS observation show that a baseline extension observed on Kirishimayama has continued since July 2017. This indicates that there is a possibility of accumulation of magma in deep places of Kirishimayama.

Kirishimayama (Sinmoedake) (Alert Level: 3)

No eruption has been recorded since the eruption on 17 October.

Volcanic seismicity has remained at relatively high levels until 4 December (201 events on 2 December), and low-frequency earthquakes in shallow area occasionally occur.

No volcanic tremors have been recorded since 30 November.

Volcanic gas (SO₂) emissions have remained 100 tons or less a day.

No remarkable change was seen in tiltmeter observation data from 16 October.

Data from continuous GNSS observation show that a baseline extension observed on Kirishimayama has continued since July 2017. This indicates that there is a possibility of accumulation of magma in deep places of Kirishimayama.

Sakurajima (Alert Level: 3)

Eruptive activity at Sakurajima has remained.

An eruption occurred at the Showa crater. No explosive eruptions occurred. A very small eruption 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)

Volcanic seismicity has remained generally at high levels. Amounts of volcanic gas (SO₂) emissions had remained 100 - 400 tons a day. Amounts of volcanic gas (SO₂) emissions have been generally at relatively higher levels than that of before the eruption on August 2014. The number of small-amplitude earthquakes has remained high since around June 2017. Eruptions may still occur.

Suwanosejima (Alert Level: 2)

Very small eruptions occasionally occurred at the Otake crater.

The potential for eruptions affecting areas around the crater remains.