



Mauna Loa Resources Available Online



Mauna Loa—History, Hazards, and Risk of Living With the World’s Largest Volcano

Mauna Loa on the island of Hawaii is the world's largest volcano. People residing on its flanks face many hazards that come with living on or near an active volcano, including lava flows, explosive eruptions, volcanic smog, damaging earthquakes, and lava fountains (spit fountains). The County of Hawaii (Island of Hawaii) is the fastest growing County in the State of Hawaii. Its expanding population and increasing development mean that risk from volcanic hazards will continue to grow. U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) scientists at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO) closely monitor and study Mauna Loa volcano to enable timely warnings of hazardous activity and help protect lives and property.



Mauna Loa, the world's largest volcano, has erupted many times, producing large and long traveled lava flows, and it will erupt again and pose a significant risk to inhabitants of the island of Hawaii. During its most recent eruption in 1984, a lava flow approached the city of Hilo, as seen in this nighttime photograph (photo by David Liffen).

Mauna Loa—History, Hazards, and Risk of Living With the World’s Largest Volcano – USGS Fact Sheet



Mauna Loa: Preparing for the next eruption of Earth’s largest active volcano – USGS Map-based Narrative

Storymaps, or geonarratives, are web maps that incorporate interactive maps with supportive text and photos. This geonarrative provides an overview of Mauna Loa’s eruptive history and hazards and includes interactive maps and datasets to help Island of Hawai’i residents prepare for the next eruption. Mauna Loa erupted most recently in 1984, and will erupt again in the future, posing significant risks to people living on the flanks of the volcano. The geonarrative text is adapted largely from the USGS Fact Sheet “Mauna Loa—History, Hazards, and Risk of Living With the World’s Largest Volcano” (listed above) and includes interactive maps showing lava-flow hazard zones, lines of steepest descent, lava inundation zones, and recent Mauna Loa lava flows.



Living With Volcano Hazards – USGS Fact Sheet

Hazardous volcanic conditions might last for a day or decades, all the while threatening people’s health and safety. Scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey and partner agencies assess hazards and closely monitor activity at the Nation’s volcanoes. They provide volcano updates and warnings of hazardous situations, as well as guidance on actions to take. You can prepare your family and community by familiarizing yourself with the types of hazards at volcanoes near where you live and visit.



Lava inundation zone maps for Mauna Loa, Island of Hawai’i, Hawai’i – USGS Scientific Investigations Report

Lava flows from Mauna Loa volcano, on the Island of Hawai’i, constitute a significant hazard to people and property. This report addresses those lava flow hazards, mapping 18 potential lava inundation zones on the island.



See <https://www.usgs.gov/hvo> for more information.

Questions? Email askHVO@usgs.gov.