



The Eruption of Mount Semeru in East Java, Indonesia

Mount Semeru volcano eruption on November 19, 2025

Mount Semeru is one of the most active volcanoes in Indonesia, located in East Java. It is the tallest mountain on the island. In recent days, the volcano erupted and released fast-moving hot clouds of volcanic ash and debris into nearby villages. The eruption sent ash rose more than 6,500 feet (approximately 2,000 meters) above the peak, spreading up to around 12 miles (approximately 20 kilometers) from the crater. These conditions caused a risk to surrounding communities, as hot rocks and ash may reach residential areas. The Indonesian government has raised the alert level to Level 4, indicating the highest warning due to the ongoing volcanic activity.

Damage and losses

Impact on the affected area

Mount Semeru's eruption affected several provinces, with significant impact reported in Lumajang and Malang districts, particularly in Pronojiwo and Candipuro subdistricts. Other affected areas include East Java (Jawa Timur). Agricultural land, estate crops, and livestock areas were highly vulnerable to volcanic hazards. Ash dispersion reached up to a 20 km radius from the crater, and lava flows also caused risks along riverbanks such as Besuk Kobokan.

Impacts to people were relatively limited, with 1,116 residents affected and a small number suffering from volcanic materials. Infrastructure damage was also recorded, including a school located in the red zone in Supiturang village, environmental and drainage systems, Jugosari bridge, and the Summersari and Gondoruso embankments. A total of 232 houses were affected by volcanic material.

Agricultural devastation

Agricultural land:

- Indonesia: The damaged areas were reported in Lumajang and Malang districts, with particular damage to Pronojiwo and Candipuro subdistricts of East Java province.

Affected crops:

- Indonesia: Severe impacts were recorded in Lumajang of East Java with a total at 52.65 hectares damaged. Details show the crop reductions as follows:
 - Rice: 45.72 tons lost
 - Maize: 2.73 tons lost
 - Sugarcane: 53.15 tons lost
 - Chili: 282.14 tons lost
 - Coffee: 0.87 tons lost
 - Green beans: 3.50 tons lost
 - Snake fruit: 0.16 tons lost
 - Sengon: 108 tons lost

Government responses and countermeasures

Multiple agencies, including the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) and the Regional Disaster Management Agency of East Java (BPBD), provided assistance to affected communities by delivering logistics, essential evacuation equipment, and healthcare services. Collaboration between government bodies and international organizations was mobilized to support emergency response efforts in the impacted areas. Agencies such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) through Indonesian Red Cross (PMI), Sentinel Asia (an international disaster monitoring network), and National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) contributed through situation reports, volunteer deployment, logistical assistance, and satellite monitoring. The Ministry of Agriculture (Directorate General of Livestock and Animal Health), BULOG (Logistics Agency), East Java Regional Government, Pertamina, and Sepuluh November Institute of Technology also provided support through animal feed, staple food supplies, basic necessities, and socio-economic recovery programs for affected farmers.

Following the disaster, organizations and volunteers worked together to support recovery efforts, including road clearing and traffic control by the Department of Transportation, public kitchen operations by the Social Service Office, Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) and Indonesian National Police (POLRI), and assistance for residents in cleaning houses and relocating belongings to evacuation shelters. Waste management was supported by the Environmental Agency, while food and clean water distribution was handled by the East Java Regional Government.

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