

# Livestock and animal response

Volcanic eruptions can cause a variety of issues for livestock and animals. Two of the most prominent concern water and feed supply. If they are unable to access fresh feed and water, it can lead to dehydration and starvation. Other issues include the below.

- Respiratory issues
- Skin irritation
- Teeth and hoof abrasions
- Gastrointestinal blocks due to ingestion
- Fluorosis due to higher concentration of fluoride in the ash

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR LIVESTOCK

1. If animals are suspected to be physically weak, walking abnormally or injured, etc. contact your nearest local animal health officer immediately for treatment.
2. Animals that are likely to survive should be monitored and continuously be provided with clean water, food and shelter. Move animals to areas that have access to clean water, feed and shelter free of volcanic ash.
3. Ensure that shelters are regularly cleaned.
4. Ensure that animals introduced for re-stocking are from safe, disease free and healthy sources.
5. Animals should be housed or tethered to control and ensure they are feeding in clean pasture and drinking from a safe clean water source. Note that animals are not to be tethered on steep slopes and in one place for more than 12 hours.
6. Dispose dead animals by burning or burying to prevent bad smell, fly problems and control the spread of diseases.
7. Ensure the animal does not have volcanic ash on the skin, eyes or other parts of the body. Wash off any volcanic ash immediately.
8. Keep records as part of good management practice.
9. Waste management: animal manure can be used as compost for fertilisers in gardens and plantations, etc.

## Who can farmers contact for further information?

Farmers may contact staff of the local Ministry of Agriculture or SPC Land Resources Division staff. For additional technical assistance, contact the SPC Land Resources Division at: [gibsons@spc.int](mailto:gibsons@spc.int)

