



Observatorio Vulcanológico y Sismológico de Costa Rica

Universidad Nacional

OVSICORI-UNA

Press Bulletin.

Sequence of Pyroclastic Flows Arenal Volcano. September 5, 2003

A new sequence of Pyroclastic Flows started at 10:55am today (16:55 GMT). At least 8 signals within the following two hours, related to the triggering collapse, were recorded by the seismographs at this Observatory. Material from upper accumulation of lava flows descended down to 800m.a.s.l, along N and NE flanks. Fine dust and ashes were carried towards W and NW areas of the edifice, magnifying the perception of residents and tourists.

No injuries or deaths occurred and main effects were limited to the National Park boundaries. Patches of vegetation were reached at the end of flows causing ignition.

Similar flows have occurred in recent years (e.g. may 1998, august 2000, march 2001) affecting the summit and upper areas of the active cone C. No eruptions or extraordinary seismic activity is associated to today's activity. Scientific staff from this Observatory witnessed today's flows and within the next few day will be documenting the areas directly impacted.

It is expected that similar events occur in the next future given the extrusion rates and accumulation of materials in the upper areas and along the steep walls of the active cone.