

Media Release

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Eruption on Mt Ruapehu

What appears to have been a small volcanic eruption has occurred on Mt Ruapehu this evening at 8.20pm and lasting for about 10 minutes.

Monitoring equipment reported ash fall on ski fields and small lahars on the northern and eastern sides of the mountain.

“As a precaution, the ski fields have been evacuated and people should not go on to the mountain until the authorities consider it to be safe,” the Director of the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, John Hamilton, said.

The Ruapehu District Council, the Manawatu Wanganui Civil Defence Emergency Mangement Group and GNS Science are assessing the extent of the volcanic activity.

Scientific data is now being studied and the mountain will be inspected at day break tomorrow morning. As yet, there are no reports of injuries or damage to property.

The agencies involved will release further information as it becomes available.

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