

**VOLKAM**  
**South**  
**Pacific**  
**Overview**



**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

# VOLKAM

In 2010, the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland caused significant disruption to air traffic across the North Atlantic. As a result, ICAO formed the International Volcanic Ash Task Force (IVATF) to develop a global safety risk management framework that would make it possible to determine the safe levels of aircraft operation in airspace contaminated by volcanic ash. As one of its outcomes, the IVATF recommended that each of the ICAO Planning and Implementation Regional groups develop a volcanic ash contingency plan.



The ATC responsibilities are covered in ICAO Doc 4444 par 15.8:

## **15.8 PROCEDURES FOR AN ATC UNIT WHEN A VOLCANIC ASH CLOUD IS REPORTED OR FORECAST**

**15.8.1** If a volcanic ash cloud is reported or forecast in the FIR for which the ACC is responsible, the controller should:

- a) relay all information available immediately to pilots whose aircraft could be affected to ensure that they are aware of the ash cloud's position and the flight levels affected;**
- b) suggest appropriate re-routing to the flight crew to avoid an area of known or forecast ash clouds;**
- c) inform pilots that volcanic ash clouds are not detected by relevant ATS surveillance systems;**
- d) if the ACC has been advised by an aircraft that it has entered a volcanic ash cloud the controller should:**
  - 1) consider the aircraft to be in an emergency situation;**
  - 2) not initiate any climb clearances to turbine-powered aircraft until the aircraft has exited the ash cloud; and**
  - 3) not initiate vectoring without pilot concurrence.**

***Note.— Experience has shown that the recommended escape maneuver for an aircraft which has encountered an ash cloud is to reverse its course and begin a descent if terrain permits. The final responsibility for this decision, however, rests with the pilot.***



# Why?

- **Increased activity worldwide**
- **Ensure ANSP's are ready**
- **Update contact information**
- **Be prepared**



# Who Participates?

- VO - Volcano Observatory
- VAAC – Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre
- ATMC – Air Traffic Management Center
- ACC – Area Control Center
- NOF – International NOTAM Office
- MWO – Meteorological Watch Office
- ANSP – Air Navigation Service Provider
- Airlines / Support (weather)
- ICAO / Regulatory



# Objectives

- **Demonstrate coordination procedures between all participants**
- **Review/develop existing contingency procedures**
- **Tactical re-routes (DARP)**
- **Diversion (from X to Y)**
- **ATFM measures if necessary**
- **VAAC handover**
- **Transmission of air reports and info sharing**



# How

- **Set Exercise duration** (i.e. 2200 UTC 19 May / 0200 UTC 20 May 2019)
- **Select Exercise Volcano** (name, coordinates and location)
- **Develop exercise scenario and schedule**
- **Exercise Scenario Messages**



# Challenges

- **Participation**
- **Duration**
- **Costs**

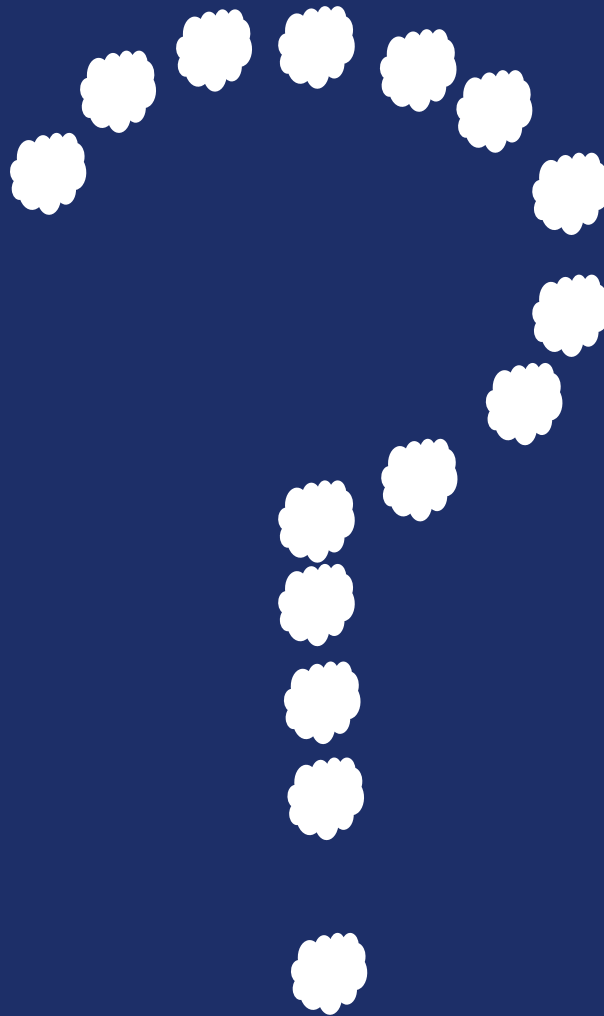




# Outlook

- Determine if, when and how this would happen?





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