

Conflicting Volcanic Ash Information

*Joint Workshop with
ICAO APAC MET/S WG*

Presented to: ISPACG/35 Plenary

By: FAA

Date: 29 July 2021



Background

- VOLCEX 20/02 exercise held 2100 UTC 16 July to 0300 UTC 17 July 2020
- Simulated eruption of Tofua (19°45'S, 175°4'W) in the central part of the Tonga Islands group
- Exercise recommendation #20: ISPACG to hold joint workshop with ICAO APAC MET Services Work Group to discuss measures to minimise the likelihood of conflicting volcanic ash information, and recommend strategies to the ICAO APAC VOLCEX SG Secretariat



Tofua



Joint Workshop

- Held at 0130-0300 UTC on 13-14 May 2021
- Reviewed challenges raised during VOLCEX 20/02:
 - Understanding differences between Volcano Observatory Notice for Aviation (VONA) and Volcanic Ash Advisory (VAA)
 - Information used in NOTAM and ASHTAM
 - ATS provider use of early notifications that include ash height but not horizontal extent
 - Update frequency for NOTAM/ASHTAM
- Other topics discussed:
 - Requirement to issue ASHTAM vs NOTAM
 - Coordination when ash expected to cross FIR boundary
 - Additional communication channels (WhatsApp, Teams)



Recommendations for VOLCEX SG Secretariat

- Reinstate VOLCEX SG meeting and exercises as soon as possible
- Encourage smaller local exercises, with significant outcomes shared with VOLCEX SG
- Invite ISPACG Chair to join the VOLCEX SG

Next VOLCEX exercise will include Chile

