

2001 Eruption of Mount Etna

Buse YAMAN
Zeynep GÜVEN
Mert KAYILIOĞLU

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Agenda

1. Information about Mount Etna
2. Overview of the Disaster
3. Precautions
4. Disaster Management
5. What was right/ wrong?
6. Lessons learned
7. References

Information about Mount Etna



- Metropolitan City of Catania - east coast of Sicily, Italy
- African Plate and the Eurasian Plate
- 3,326 m height
- 1,190 km² area



Information about Mount Etna

- Decade Volcano by the UN
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites



Overview of the Disaster

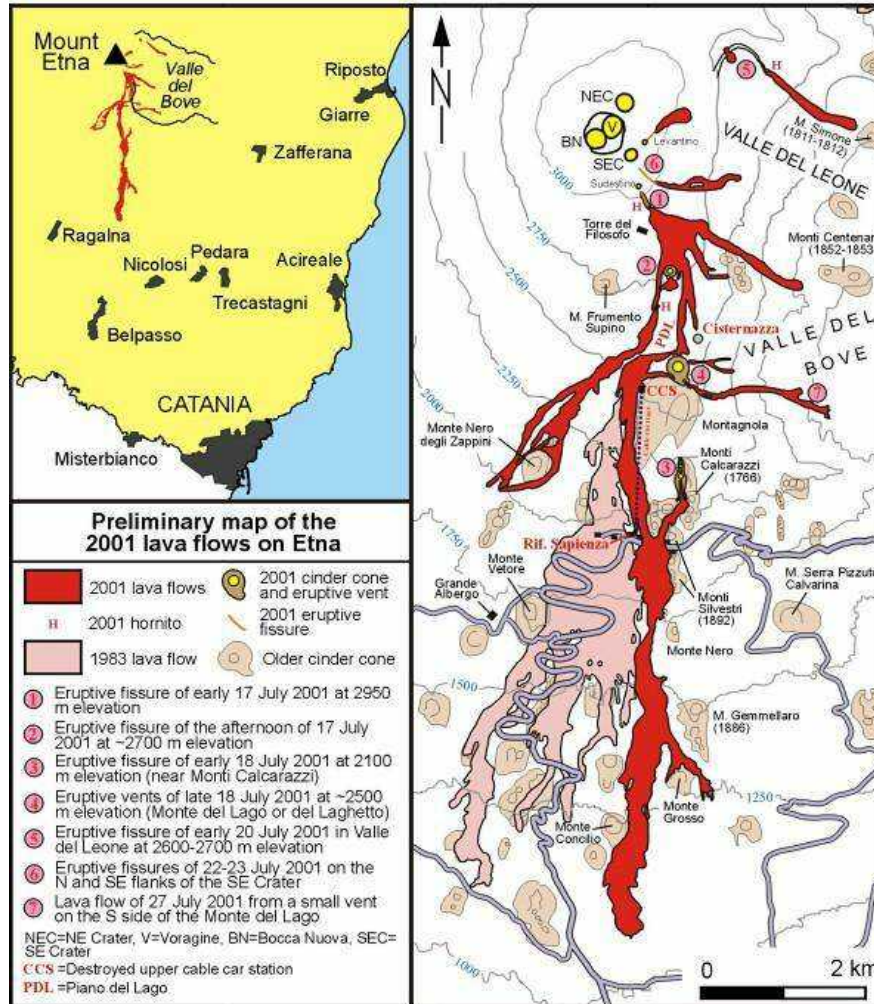
- Eruption in 1928 led to the destruction of a population centre for the first time since the 1669 eruption
- Other major 20th-century eruptions occurred in 1949, 1971, 1979, 1981, 1983 and 1991–1993.
- **July–August 2001**

Overview of the Disaster

- At July 2001 lava has been crawled towards Etna village Nicolosi, Sicily.



Overview of the Disaster



- Five fissures have opened up in the mountain on the Mediterranean island of Sicily and flowing lava has reached to within 5 km of Nicolosi.

- The volcano on the Italian island of Sicily has been increasingly active during the 2001 eruption, spewing lava, ash, and rock from several fissures.

Overview of the Disaster

- Eruptions lasted for 24 days.
- This disaster has had social, environmental and economic impacts.
- \$3.1 million in damage
- No death

Precautions

- After 1669 eruption, it was decided that interference with the natural flow of lava was prohibited in Italy.



Disaster Management

SHORT TERM

- Evacuation
- US army dropped concrete to stop lava flow
- Cancelled holidays
- Mass clean up operations in Catania and surroundings
- £5.6M aid from Italian government
- Extinguishing the fire due to lava

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HktMyt1T-CY>

Disaster Management

LONG TERM

- Improved monitoring systems
- Better emergency planning
- Tax breaks given to locals to assist rebuilding
- Raised awareness of Sicily as a tourist destination

What was right/wrong?

RIGHT

- ✓ They did not interfere with the natural flow of lava
- ✓ Locals were prepared
- ✓ Evacuation

WRONG

- ✗ Dramatization of media
- ✗ Late decision, they should have closed the roads before an incident happened.

Lessons Learned

- ✓ No dramatization anymore
- ✓ Closing access to Etna to the public
- ✓ Following disasters are well monitored and actively managed
- ✓ Scientist analyzed Etna after the eruption

References

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Thank you!

Any questions?