



TALGEST: A Multimedia Educational Website Showcasing Volcanic Awareness and Preparedness



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What is a Volcanic Gas?

Volcanic Gases are gases produced by active volcanoes.

Volcanic Gases form a dissolved component of magma that is released to the atmosphere in large quantities during eruptions.

The principal volcanic gases are:

- Water vapor
- Hydrogen sulfide
- Sulfur dioxide
- Carbon dioxide
- Carbon monoxide
- Hydrogen chloride
- Hydrogen fluoride
- Minor amounts of nitrogen
- Methane
- Argon
- Helium (can also be degassed from magma)

Volcanic gases form aerosols that can both cool down the earth's atmosphere and deplete its ozone concentration for a period of time.

Some volcanic gases such as hydrogen fluoride are toxic and can endanger livestock that ingest contaminated vegetation. Non-toxic species such as carbon dioxide can also be lethal when released in large quantities, displacing air and causing asphyxiation in human and animal populations.