TALGEST: A Multimedia Educational Website Showcasing Volcanic Awareness and Preparedness

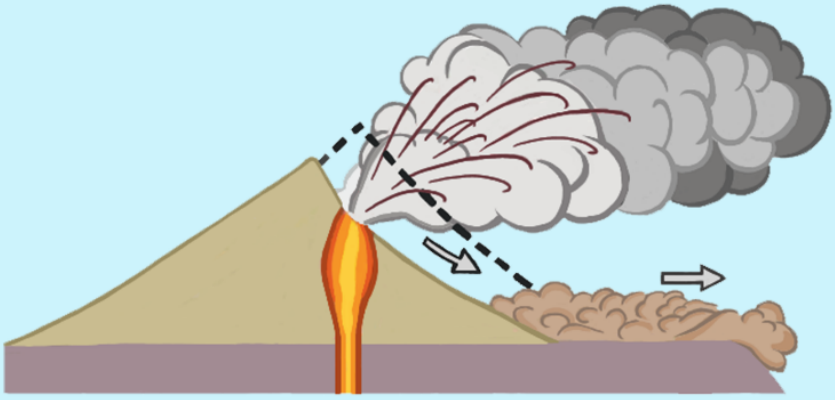
John Carlo Infante | Janine V. Soriano

Ma. Corazon Fernando
Project Adviser

Mr. Wilson L. Yu II
Project Mentor

FEU INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Lateral Blasts and Lava Flows



Eruptions and ashfall are not the only natural hazards that occur when a volcano erupts. There are also lateral blasts and lava flows.

What are Lateral Blasts?

Lateral Blasts are laterally-directed thrusts of hot gas and ash that can be generated from an exploding dome on the summit vent or inside the edifice when sudden mass failure of the volcanic flanks occur.

Lateral Blasts travel at subsonic speeds at the onset, flattening everything in their paths and causing impacts similar to those of PDCs.

What are Lava Flows?

Lava flows are rivers of incandescent of molten rock or lava moving downslope or away from an eruption vent.

Lava flows composed of low silica magma have low viscosities and tend to flow at high speeds (kilometers per hour) while those composed of high silica magma and tend to move slowly (kilometers per day). Steep slopes encourage faster and longer flows than gentle slopes or terrain.