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Municipality of Lipari

(Metropolitan City of Messina)
Civil Protection Service

Regulations for excursions to the crater “La Fossa” on the Island of Vulcano

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Mayor Order
n. 17 of 23 april 2023

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Regulations for excursions to the crater “La Fossa” on the Island of Vulcano

Excursions are free and allowed from:

- 1 April to 20 October of each year, from 06:30 to 10:30 a. m and from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m;

- 21 October to 31 March of each year between 07:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m;

the above time limitations are to be intended for presence above restricted altitude.

2. Access is regulated by an automatic traffic light system activated by the Municipality of Lipari depending on the weather conditions since the wind direction determines the safety of the crater area;

- a RED light or no light means the path to the crater is to be considered CLOSED and the climb up to “La Fossa” PROHIBITED.

- a GREEN light means the path to the crater is to be considered OPEN and the climb up to “La Fossa” ALLOWED.

3. Access to the path is monitored by an automatic continuous recording video-surveillance system;

4. For safety reasons and to be able to give immediate assistance, climbing the crater alone without at least one other person is not allowed;

5. Access, transit and stopping in areas outside the path indicated in the attached maps are prohibited;

6. Access to the volcano is via a path with variable ground (sand, clay, debris, stones) requiring adequate equipment (walking boots, adequate clothing, water, food, mobile phone, etc.);

7. The limitations given above are not applied to monitoring, medical, civil protection and territorial control personnel and more specifically:

- To technical and scientific personnel from competent centers carrying out control, monitoring and surveillance activities on the volcano;

- To scientific personnel from universities and research centers carrying out volcanological studies and research;

- To personnel from the Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Civil Protection Department (DPC) on institutional duty;

- To personnel from the Presidency of the Sicilian Regional Government - Regional Civil Protection Department on institutional duty;

- To personnel from the Municipal Civil Protection on institutional duty;

- To law-enforcement

- To fire-fighters carrying out urgent rescue operations;

- To medical personnel carrying out rescue and assistance operations.

SELF-PROTECTION MEASURES for access to the crater “La Fossa” connected to gas emission risk on the Island of VULCANO

The measures of self-protection given below describe the behavior and precautions which may help to mitigate the risks caused by gas emissions during the climb up the crater and along the path on the rim of the crater “La Fossa” on the Island of Vulcano.

1. Comply to the indications given in the information, monitoring and prohibition signs at the start of the path leading up to the crater “La Fossa”, as well as the protection measures given therein;

2. Consult the official websites of the Municipality of Lipari (www.comunedilipari.it), the INGV - Monitoring centre of the Aeolian Islands (<https://cme.ingv.it/>) and the Civil Protection Department (<https://rischi.protezionecivile.gov.it/it/vulcanico/vulcani-italia/vulcano>) which give updated information regarding the volcano's activity and recommendations for visitors to the island of Vulcano;

3. Pay attention to communications by the Municipality of Lipari relating to weather conditions, such as easterly winds, which may affect the direction of the crater's “Plume” gas and therefore the path leading up to the crater.

4. Attempt the climb up the crater only if you are in good health and note the path has a level of difficulty E (Excursion);

5. Dress in layers;

6. Wear and be equipped with light, breathable and waterproof clothing;

7. Wear all terrain walking boots;

8. Recommended items to take on the excursion include:

Water; b. Ready to eat snacks (dried fruit, chocolate, energy bars, fruit, etc.); Hat; Mobile phone.

9. Do not leave the path or enter restricted areas: fumarole field, crater mouth, depressions around internal crater rim;

10. Always carry an ffp2/ffp3 face mask and use it in case of respiratory irritation, difficulty breathing or a pungent “rotten egg” smell;

11. Monitor your health and those of your children and elderly people since they are more sensitive to the effects caused by changes in air quality. Do not neglect any symptom.

12. In case of discomfort or sickness visit the emergency healthcare facility and/or inform your doctor of any symptom

