



R I S K P A L

Risk Assessment

Project name: Canary Islands Volcano Sample Risk Assessment

Project Risk Level: Level 4

Author: Colin Peterson

Risk Assessment Details

PROJECT NAME

Canary Islands Volcano Sample Risk Assessment

DEPARTMENT

Productions Team

START DATE

30/09/2021

END DATE

13/10/2021

APPROVING MANAGER

Josie Smith

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Journalist team is deploying to film a volcano eruption on La Palma in the Spanish Canary Islands.

The eruption commenced on the 19th September has destroyed houses and forced residents to evacuate. The Lava flow has reached the sea at Playa Nueva. Fearing the release of toxic gas as the lava enters the sea, Spanish authorities have declared an exclusion zone of two nautical miles around the area and asked people to stay away. Experts say the entry of lava into the seawater will send clouds of toxic gas into the air, causing explosions and a fragmentation of the molten rock like gunshots. "Inhalation or contact with acid gases and liquids can irritate the skin, eyes and respiratory tract, and may cause breathing difficulties, especially in people with pre-existing respiratory diseases,"

A state of natural disaster has been declared on the island, where the molten rock has so far scorched its way across more than 258 hectares of land and destroyed 589 properties - not all of them homes, according to the European Union's Copernicus Earth Observation Programme. The eruption has forced the evacuation of more than 6,000 people from their homes but has not killed or injured anyone so far.

In March 2017 a BBC film crew narrowly missed being seriously injured during an eruption of Mount Etna in Sicily. In 2010, Guatemalan journalist Aníbal Archilla, a Guatemalan reporter for Notisiete, was killed as he was reporting on the eruption of the Pacaya volcano. Fellow worker Vinicio Fuentes said Archilla couldn't escape from the volcanic stone rain and was hit several times by lava and rocks. In 1991, Japanese NHK cameraman Makio Yanai was killed covering the eruption in Shimabara, Nagasaki Prefecture, when he was swept up by a pyroclastic flow.

PROJECT DETAILS

Flights

20th September
London Luton 14:25 - Las Palmas 19:05

24th Return Flight to be booked

Local producer to book onwards flights and organise car. Desk will be informed.

Team Details

PROJECT MEMBERS:

NAME

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Risks & Mitigation

DOES YOUR ASSIGNMENT INVOLVE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL?

Severity	Likelihood	Persons Affected
Moderate	Possible	Staff / Project Team

MITIGATION MEASURES

Spain is currently an amber on the FCO List. We will follow the rules and regulations as outlined by the Spanish authorities and for re-entry into the UK as outlined in the country page.

The team will have PPE, sterilising gel and will practice social distancing wherever possible. The team have been fully vaccinated. We will also be carrying lateral flow tests and test regularly. If necessary we will test at a local PCR testing centre.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

The emergence of new variants of SARS-CoV-2 has led to many authorities imposing strict controls and requirements for those arriving in each country.

- Most countries require proof of a negative COVID-19 test result on arrival, which in most cases must be taken 72 hours in advance of travel. Be aware that you may be subject to further testing on arrival.
- Check if the destination country requires proof of a COVID-19 vaccination and if the authorities will only recognise or accept a particular brand of vaccine (e.g. Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Jansen, Sputnik V etc.). Information about demonstrating your COVID-19 vaccination status [can be seen here](#).
- Check what travel and/or COVID-19 declaration forms need to be completed in advance of travel
- Find out about the latest quarantine/self isolation requirements in your destination, which could include staying in a government approved hotel at your own cost.
- Research any movement restrictions in place in your destination.
- Check the feasibility of obtaining visas, insurance, flights and any necessary permits.
- Ensure you have a contingency plan in place should you develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- Airlines and airports will likely request travellers to wear face masks. Be aware that virus droplets can travel further within pressurised air cabins.
- Lockdown areas will likely be quieter than usual, and police resources may be stretched. Always research the latest security situation and crime threat in any location you are visiting.
- Authoritarian governments may be monitoring coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic and censoring the media accordingly. Journalists should conduct a thorough review of their digital security in advance of any overseas assignment, and thoroughly research all potential threats specific to the destination.

Please see our [detailed COVID-19 page](#) for much more COVID19 safety guidance.

WILL YOU BE WORKING NEAR VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS OR AN ACTIVE VOLCANO?

Severity	Likelihood	Persons Affected
Major	Possible	Staff / Project Team

MITIGATION MEASURES

The team will be working closely with the local authorities including the fire department. They have had a briefing from a volcanologist about what to expect and warning signs that a further eruption maybe about to occur.

The team are aware off the dangers of toxic gas release and explosions when/if lava enters the ocean. They will abide by any exclusion zone, use PPE and follow local authority advice.

There is potential for them to film lava flows in the affected villages if safe to do so, but they will not be approaching the volcano slopes or going close to the volcano in any way.

If there are signs that there will be a further eruption they will immediately evacuate the villages and areas. They will always avoid volcanic ash affected areas however.

For the most part they will stay in low risk areas as designated by the fire fighters. Any lives will be done in low risk areas.

They will wear PPE throughout. They have helmets, respirators glasses and heat resistant clothing. they also have first aid kits including burn gel. However they have been briefed that if they feel that they should be donning this equipment they are probably too close and need to pull back.

They have fully read and acknowledged the guidance and will comply with it.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

The level of risk faced whilst working in close proximity to a volcano can be reduced and limited by a range of factors such as preparedness, experience, protective equipment and the identification of emergency escape routes. The main dangers to consider are extreme heat and cold, windstorms, heavy rain / acid rainfall, lightning, altitude sickness, blizzards, getting lost, volcanic activity, volcanic projectiles, unstable terrain, and dangerous plants, animals, and insects.

Pre Deployment

- Thoroughly research the history of volcanic activity and/or the current eruption. Use expert volcanologists with local knowledge to build up an accurate picture of the potential risks. A useful resource can be found here: https://volcano.si.edu/search_volcano.cfm
- Inform people about what you have found out and make sure they understand any risks.
- Only deploy people in good general health without respiratory problems. You may need to check with the individual's GP if unsure.
- If, having taken professional local advice you decide to venture into the eruption zone - you should not work alone; plan and communicate an emergency exit route; take reliable comms and a knowledgeable guide; be alert for new vents and lava flows; limit your time in the zone, and constantly reassess your safety.

Equipment

- It is recommended to wear sturdy boots with good ankle support, long-sleeved shirts and long trousers (preferably made from natural flame-resistant fibres). Gloves will offer some protection from burns.
- Wear safety goggles as necessary. If possible wear eyeglasses instead of contact lenses. Saline eye drops are also useful for potential eye irritation. If symptoms develop, get out of the zone as soon as possible with your guide.
- Take plenty of water, as well as face cloths or wipes in case any ash lands on your face.
- Take PPE if the risk is high, such as a safety helmet, safety goggles and a respirator. If you don't have a respirator, use a dust mask or hold a damp cloth over your face to help with breathing.
- Create a Disaster Supplies Kit, which should include items such as a portable radio, emergency cooking equipment, flashlights, charged batteries, non-perishable food and drinking water, essential medicines and a first-aid kit.

Position and Hazards

Depending on air currents and wind direction, most volcanic eruptions result in airborne contaminants for a wide zone around the eruption. Hazardous gases emitted by volcanoes include carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, hydrogen sulphide, radon, hydrogen chloride, hydrofluoric acid, and sulphuric acid. Gases can be toxic and/or displace oxygen from the environment leading to anoxia. Sulphur dioxide fumes are a significant hazard and more dangerous for those with respiratory problems. Children should never be exposed, and note that no regular dust mask will protect against this gas. Inhaling hot ash is a major cause of death in pyroclastic flows, and the lethal period may only last a minute.

- Remain vigilant to warning signs of an eruption. Explosive activity may be preceded by earthquakes or rock falls. You may have as little as 30 seconds warning but this may give you time to take cover or evasive action.
- Stay away from areas downwind from the volcano to avoid volcanic ash. Note that dust masks only offer partial protection against particles, as some are so fine that only full breathing apparatus will prevent them from entering the lungs.
- Limit your time in the danger zone, and always remember that visibility may suddenly reduce to almost zero without warning due to fog, rain, volcanic fumes or nightfall. These factors can result in lost orientation, lightning, accidents on rocks and cliffs, dehydration, hydrothermia, sunburn etc.
- Do not rely on GPS to guide you, and remember that there will likely be only limited landmarks to help orientate yourself.
- Be alert to unstable ground which can result in falls and head injuries.
- Avoid running car or truck engines. Driving can stir up volcanic ash that can clog engines, damage moving parts, and stall vehicles.
- Never enter a depression near active fumaroles, especially on a day without wind. Toxic gases can pool in the depression leading to a dangerous situation.
- If in the region of an eruption, staying inside an airtight building increases your chances of survival. Stay indoors until the ash has settled, unless there is a danger of the roof collapsing. Close all doors, windows, and all ventilation in the house (chimney vents, furnaces, air conditioners, fans, and other vents). Note that motor vehicles offer little safety.
- Avoid going near flowing lava passing over or close to vegetation. Plants can burn without oxygen when covered by lava, creating methane gas. If the methane ignites, the ground can explode up to 100 metres in front of the advancing lava flow, resulting in debris such as rocks.
- Remain alert to the dangers from larger rocks and boulders which can be ejected up to three miles from the eruption site, often at high velocity. Choose a location away from the gas cloud and have spotters on hand to warn of changing conditions. Taking cover behind boulders or in a depression will shield you from lateral projectiles but less so from vertical projectiles. Evacuate the area as soon as possible and safe to do so.
- Avoid river valleys and low-lying areas due to the dangers from mudflows (lahars), the chances of which increase near streams

after prolonged heavy rains. Mudflows can move faster than you can walk or run. Look upstream before crossing a bridge, and never cross a bridge if a mudflow is approaching. Valleys can subsequently become high-risk zones after periods of new activity for as far away as 100 km away from the volcano.

- Be aware that volcanoes generate their own weather patterns that will vary from that close by. Winds can reach 150 km/hr without warning. Cooling lava flows may still be deadly. Rain falling on the hot surface may displace breathable air after it flashes to steam (people died from the effect at Nyiragongo eruption in 2002).
- Beware of periods of low activity. Quiet periods at a volcano can lure you into a false sense of security, and tempt you to get closer than is safe. Always respect a quiet volcano!

Volcano Risk Grading

It's important to recognise and understand that there are no constants with volcanoes. However, the following rough guide can help put the level of risk into perspective. Please note that the distinction between each zone is fluid and can change depending upon local conditions.

Extreme Risk Zone

This area exists around an active volcanic vent, where the dangers are so extreme that the chances of being killed are extremely high. This is sometimes referred to as the 'Death Zone'.

High Risk Zone

This only applies to volcanoes that are erupting or that show strong signs of an impending eruption. The defined 'safe distance' in relation to the volcano crater depends upon the size of the eruption. The chances of severe injury or death are considerable depending upon the state of the volcano in question, with a high chance of volcanic projectiles falling.

Medium Risk Zone

The risk of injury or death from a volcanic eruption is comparable to other activities where an increased risk is common (driving a car, skiing etc.). This is the area that is usually most interesting for volcano watchers. However, the medium risk zone should not be considered safe ground and you should never camp or sleep in this zone and always limit the amount of time you spend here.

Low Risk Zone

Any volcanic risk is limited and often overestimated, typically being more than a 1 km away from active volcanic vents and more than 5-10 km away from volcanoes producing moderate to strong explosive activity. Only exceptionally large eruptions might affect this zone.

Safe Zone

Usually located many kilometres from a volcano crater, only exceptional eruptions are likely to cause damage in this zone. Risk to life and properties is minimal.

Always remember that changes in the behaviour of a volcano can turn the area where you live into a high risk zone, and you should accept the possibility that the town or the place you're in could need to be evacuated at any moment.

Country Information

Spain

INFORMATION ON SPAIN

As of 18th September 2021, **Everyone aged 12 or over arriving in Spain from the UK must present either:**

- a negative Covid-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours of travelling
- proof of being fully vaccinated at least 14 days before travel

The [NHS Covid Pass](#) can be used as evidence of vaccination status if you are travelling from England or [Wales](#). If you live in [Scotland](#) you can download a QR code or request an NHS letter. There is a similar [Covid certificate](#) for Northern Ireland residents.

In addition, you must complete a [health control form](#) no more than 48 hours before travelling to Spain by air or sea.

A negative Covid test (PCR or lateral flow), proof of vaccination or proof of Covid-recovery may be required to cross [the French border into Spain](#).

The French government changed requirements for those transiting through France. If you are planning to drive to Spain, check the latest [FCDO travel advice for France](#).

If travelling via Gibraltar, check the latest [Foreign Office travel advice](#).

Across Spain, you need to observe the following rules:

- wear face coverings [in enclosed public spaces \(and crowded outdoor spaces\)](#) - applies to anyone aged 6 or over
- maintain a social distance of 1.5m (5ft)
- follow any Covid safety measures put in place in hotels, bars, shops or restaurants

Spanish regions may impose their own local restrictions, such as overnight curfews, limits on gatherings or on the number of people allowed at beaches or other public areas. You should check with local and regional authorities for advice.

The Foreign Office has specific [healthcare guidance for UK nationals visiting Spain](#).

Tourist accommodation in the [Canary Islands](#) (and some other parts of Spain) requires proof of either full vaccination, a negative test or recent recovery from Covid.

Returning to the UK

Until 3 October:

Spain (including the Balearic Islands and Canary Islands) is on the amber travel list. Check the rules for returning home to [England](#), [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) and [Northern Ireland](#).

Adults entering the UK from an amber-list country no longer have to quarantine, if they have been fully vaccinated by the NHS. Adults entering from the EU or the US do not have to quarantine if they have received a full EMA or FDA-recognised vaccination.

The quarantine requirement has also been lifted for all under-18s.

From Monday 4 October:

The red, amber and green traffic light system is being scrapped in England.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps says there will be a new "simplified system" for international travel - with a single red list. The system will stay in place until at least the new year.

If you are fully vaccinated, you won't need a pre-departure Covid test before arrival into England from a non-red country.

You will still need to take a PCR test on day two of your return, but from "later" in October it is hoped you will be able to take a cheaper lateral flow test. The government is aiming to have this in place for when people return from half-term breaks.

RECENT INCIDENTS AND WARNINGS

Pro-independence groups to demonstrate in Catalonia, Spain, Oct. 1-3. Heightened security, localized disruptions likely; clashes possible.

SUMMARY

Pro-independence activists, led by the Catalan National Assembly (ANC), plan to stage several demonstrations in the region Oct. 1-3 to commemorate the failed 2017 independence referendum. The following actions are confirmed: *Oct. 1,*

- Vehicle procession from Ille-sur-Tet across the border in France to Figueres beginning at 17:00
- Demonstration at Placa Catalunya in Figueres from 20:00
- Demonstration at Placa de Francesc Macia in Barcelona from 19:00

Oct. 2, Three marches in different parts of the region:

- Fraga to Lleida via Alcarras, beginning at 06:00 and ending around 14:00
- Sant Julia de Ramis to Aiguaviva via Girona, starting at 08:00 and ending around 13:00
- Vinaros to La Rapita via Alcanar, beginning at 14:00 and ending around 21:00

Oct. 3,

- Demonstration at Placa del Cinc d'Oros in Barcelona from 12:00

Participation at each event will likely be in the thousands, with the highest attendance likely at the Oct. 3 action in Barcelona. Additional related activities are likely in towns and cities throughout Catalonia Oct. 1-3. Authorities will almost certainly deploy additional security forces to monitor all actions. Large crowds and associated security measures, including possible road closures or movement restrictions, will likely prompt localized transport disruptions at demonstration locations and along any march routes. Activists at previous related demonstrations have deliberately blocked traffic along major highways during marches. Isolated clashes between police and activists cannot be ruled out, particularly if participants attempt to breach any security cordons. Security forces have resorted to riot control measures, including tear gas and baton charges, against noncompliant activists at independence-related actions in the past. While bystanders are unlikely to be directly targeted, they would face an indirect threat of harm

IMPACT:	START DATE:	END DATE:
Heightened security, localized disruptions; isolated clashes possible	2021-10-01 00:01:00.0	2021-10-03 23:59:00.0

Unionized rail workers in Spain to strike nationwide Sept. 30-Oct. 1 and Oct. 4-5, 7-8, and 11-12. Disruption likely. Confirm rail services.

SUMMARY

Unionized workers employed by Renfe-Operadora, Spain's state-owned rail operator, will engage in strike actions over the coming days. The first strike will take place Sept. 30-Oct. 1 with subsequent strikes scheduled Oct. 4-5, 7-8, and 11-12. Operators will attempt to maintain minimum service levels, though some service disruption, including delays and cancellations, is likely across the RENFE network. Service levels will vary by location based on staff availability; RENFE will likely prioritize AVE (high-speed) long-distance trains and Cercanias commuter services, though both will likely be impacted. Overcrowding is likely on available rail services on strike days. Increased demand for other forms of transportation, including buses, taxis, and rental vehicles, is likely during the walkouts. Heavier use of private vehicles could cause increased traffic congestion and delays in major cities and on major thoroughfares. Supply chain disruptions and freight delivery delays are possible if shipping goods by rail during the strikes. Lingering disruptions are possible beyond the work stoppages as schedules normalize and trains are repositioned.

IMPACT:	START DATE:	END DATE:
Passenger rail and freight transport disruptions	2021-09-30 00:01:00.0	2021-10-12 23:59:00.0

Disruptions persist following ongoing volcanic eruptions at La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain, as of Sept. 28.

SUMMARY

As of early Sept. 28, evacuation orders remain in effect for around 5,600 people in the municipalities of El Paso, Fuencaliente, Los Llanos de Aridane, Tazacorte, and Villa de Mazo while around 200 people from the towns of Tajuya, Tacande de Abajo, and Tacande de Arriba have been allowed to return home. Authorities have also imposed a 2.5 km (1.5 mile) exclusion zone around the active portion of the volcano and have advised residents to avoid lava flows. The air quality over the island remains good and acid rain is unlikely through Sept. 28. Cumbre Vieja maintains at least four active emission vents, including the major Teneguia vent and several new vents. Two streams of lava, a main stream, and a secondary stream, are flowing in a southwesterly direction through Los Llanos de Aridane municipality. The lava has so far covered around 258 hectares (638 acres) of land and has destroyed at least 21 km (13 miles) of roads as well as 589 structures.

The lava is likely to reach the sea north of Los Guirres beach over the coming hours, the interaction with seawater could cause explosions, gas emissions, and acid clouds. Authorities have ordered the residents from San Borondon, Marina Alta, Marina Baja, and La Condesa in the coastal areas of the municipality of Tazacorte to confine themselves in their homes due to the risk of exposure to the released gases and acid. Maritime authorities have established an exclusion zone for coastal areas within a two-nautical mile (3.7 km/2.3 miles) radius near Todoque as well as the area from La Bulb to 0.3 km (0.2 miles) south of the port of Tazacorte in advance of the lava flows reaching the sea. Parts of the LP212 in El Paso, LP2132 in Todoque, and LP2 in Tajuya as well as LP211, LP213 and LP215 routes in Los Llanos de Aridane are closed. Restrictions are in place at LP3 at El Paso to facilitate evacuations and emergency vehicle movement. Ashfall may reduce visibility and cause hazardous driving conditions. La Palma Airport (SPC) was temporarily closed Sept. 25 due to heavy ashfall from new emission vents on the Cumbre Vieja volcano. The airport was reopened Sept. 26 after clean-up operations were completed. Significant flight disruptions are likely to persist through Sept. 28 as authorities clear passenger backlogs while operating reduced flights due to the eruption. Volcanic ash may further affect operations at SPC, prompting additional flight disruptions. SPC is the only international airport serving the island. Multiple airlines previously suspended flights to the island. Binter Canarias (NT) has halted flights to La Palma due to deteriorating conditions. Flights are scheduled to resume on Sept. 28 if conditions permit. Additional eruptions could cause low-level seismic activity, ash clouds, and landslides and prompt further evacuations in the surrounding area over the coming days.

IMPACT:	START DATE:	END DATE:
Local evacuations, road closures, ground transport disruptions; possible flight disruptions	2021-09-28 08:54:59.0	2021-10-11 23:59:00.0

Spain enforcing COVID-19 international entry restrictions as of Sept. 24; domestic measures remain in effect.

SUMMARY

Authorities in Spain are maintaining international entry restrictions as of Sept. 24 as part of measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. *International Travel Restrictions*
Permitted travelers arriving from countries designated as high-risk must present a certificate of vaccination, a certificate of having recovered from COVID-19 within the previous 11-180 days, a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken in the 72 hours before arrival, or a negative antigen test taken in the 48 hours before arrival. EU citizens traveling from EU countries may also present an EU Digital COVID Certificate to expedite processing. Travel providers may prohibit passengers who attempt to travel without this documentation from boarding. To view the list of high-risk countries, click [here](#). Nonessential travel to Spain is only permitted for travelers from EU/EEA-associated states, Australia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canada, China, Jordan, Moldova, New Zealand, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Ukraine, and Uruguay. Nonessential travel is also permitted from all countries for individuals who possess a certificate of vaccination confirming they have completed a full course of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) or World Health Organization (WHO) no less than 14 days before entry. Travelers from the UK may also use a negative COVID-19 PCR test no more than 48 hours old to enter Spain for nonessential purposes, in addition to the vaccine certificate. Travelers from designated "safe countries," including Australia, Canada, China, Jordan, Moldova, New Zealand, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Ukraine, and Uruguay, may enter Spain without these requirements. All arrivals must complete a Health Control Form before entry; for more information regarding the form and the associated program, click [here](#). *Domestic Restrictions*
Many regional authorities in Spain maintain domestic COVID-19 countermeasures as of Sept. 24. Regional authorities are responsible for setting localized restrictions, though they must petition local courts for authority to impose curfews and travel controls. Authorities in Andalusia continue to enforce a 02:00-07:00 curfew in high-risk municipalities, during which time individuals must remain in their accommodation unless attending to essential tasks. Several regions are maintaining caps on attendance at permitted gatherings and require nightlife venues to close at a certain hour. Nationwide, most businesses and services are permitted to operate but must adhere to social distancing or capacity requirements. Facemasks remain mandatory in enclosed public spaces across most of Spain, though in many areas masks are no longer necessary outdoors where social distancing guidelines can be followed. Authorities could reimpose, extend, further ease, or otherwise amend any restrictions with little-to-no notice depending on disease activity over the coming weeks.

IMPACT:	START DATE:	END DATE:
Business and travel disruptions	2021-09-24 15:53:12.0	2021-10-24 23:59:00.0

COVID-19 activity continues across several Western European countries and territories through Sept. 9. Maintain basic health precautions.

SUMMARY

Several countries and territories continue to report COVID-19 transmission as of Sept. 9. The following countries and territories have identified confirmed COVID-19 cases Aug. 12-Sept. 9. Countries are classified by risk of transmission according to the incidence rate over the past four weeks: Very high risk of transmission:

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

COVID-19 is a viral respiratory disease caused by infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Human-to-human transmission occurs primarily through respiratory droplets from infected individuals or contact with contaminated surfaces or objects. Symptoms occur 1-14 days following exposure (average of 3-7 days). These symptoms typically include fever, fatigue, and dry cough; less common symptoms include headache, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell, reddening of the eyes, skin rash, or discoloration of the fingers or toes. Symptoms may worsen to difficulty breathing, pneumonia, and organ failure - especially in those with underlying, chronic medical conditions. Some infected individuals display no symptoms. Multiple variants of COVID-19 have been identified globally, some of which spread more easily between people. COVID-19 vaccines are being distributed, though this distribution is unequal among countries, while other vaccines are in varying stages of development and clinical trials; more data is required to determine the efficacy of vaccines against COVID-19 variants. Older individuals and people of any age with chronic medical conditions or compromised immunity should consider postponing nonessential travel, including domestic travel, and take special precautions to avoid becoming ill, especially where sustained community transmission of COVID-19 is ongoing. All individuals should monitor their health and limit interactions with others for 14 days after returning from travel.

START DATE:	END DATE:
2021-09-09 15:03:39.0	2021-11-09 23:59:00.0

European Council updates list of recommended non-EU countries with which travel can resume as of Aug. 30. COVID-19 restrictions in place.

SUMMARY

The European Council (EC) has amended the list of countries with which it recommends member states relax COVID-19-related entry restrictions. As of Aug. 30, the US, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Israel, Montenegro, and Lebanon have been removed from the list due to the perceived risk of COVID-19. In its latest

guidance, the EC recommends member states ease travel restrictions for the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Canada, Japan, Jordan, Moldova, New Zealand, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Ukraine, and China (provided it implements a reciprocal travel arrangement). The council advises EU member states to restrict nonessential travel from all other countries outside the bloc as part of measures to combat the spread of COVID-19. All EU Schengen Area member states, non-Schengen EU members (i.e., Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, and Romania), and the four non-EU Schengen-associated states (i.e., Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland) are participating in the travel restrictions. The EC's recommendation is nonbinding; individual member states retain the authority to unilaterally deny travel from countries on the approved list or to permit travel with countries not on the approved list. Participating countries have also implemented the EC's EU Digital COVID Certificate. The certificate is a digital or physical QR code that acts as proof of whether a traveler has been vaccinated against, recovered from, or recently tested negative for COVID-19. Member states should, in principle, allow individuals possessing the certificate to enter the country without restriction. Additionally, the EC has advised member states to implement additional COVID-19 measures, including mandatory testing before departure, stricter measures to address virus variants of concern, and a common European passenger locator form. Persons exempted from the recommendations include family members of EU nationals, diplomats, foreigners with legal residency permits, cross-border and healthcare workers, and truck drivers transporting freight. UK citizens are subject to the recommended travel restrictions. The EC also recommended May 20 that member states begin lifting restrictions for vaccinated travelers from countries outside the bloc; several member states have begun implementing this measure.

IMPACT:	START DATE:	END DATE:
Transport and business disruptions	2021-08-30 18:26:35.0	2021-09-30 23:59:00.0

Wildfire season poses increased possibility of short-notice travel disruptions in southern Europe through end of September.

SUMMARY

Wildfires are likely to cause sporadic, localized disruptions to transport and business operations in rural areas of southern Europe, including southern France, Greece, Portugal, Spain, and Turkey, through at least the end of September. Wildfires are a typical feature of the southern European summer, particularly after long dry spells or during extreme temperatures, and can lead to evacuations, road closures, and ground transport diversions. Disruption to arterial roads is possible. While the emergency services are typically able to contain such fires and implement effective route diversions, authorities could declare local states of emergency to facilitate the emergency response to severe incidents. *Health*
Smoke from wildfires is a mixture of gases and fine particles from burning trees, plants, and possibly building materials. Such smoke can hurt eyes, irritate the respiratory system, and worsen chronic heart and lung diseases. Smoke may also worsen symptoms for people who have pre-existing respiratory conditions - such as respiratory allergies, asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). *Transport*
Heavy smoke can impede visibility, producing hazardous driving conditions on some roads and could prompt short-notice flight disruptions if wildfires occur near airports. Railways can also experience occasional cancellation of services and long delays.

IMPACT:	START DATE:	END DATE:
Short-notice transport and business disruptions; poor air quality	2021-08-02 15:48:23.0	2021-09-30 23:59:00.0

Protests against COVID-19-related policies likely to continue in cities across Europe through September. Localized disruptions likely.

SUMMARY

Sporadic protests will likely continue in cities across Europe through at least the end of September as residents denounce restrictions and other measures imposed to combat COVID-19, as well as their economic consequences, particularly for the hospitality industry. Activists could demonstrate outside government offices or at prominent locations in city centers; vehicular go-slow protests are possible. Public transport workers may hold strikes or other forms of labor actions. The COVID-19 measures currently in place in most European cities restrict public gatherings to some extent. Local police will likely monitor protests and may attempt to disperse larger gatherings. Low-level skirmishes and, in some cases, wider confrontations, are possible. Localized traffic and transport disruptions are likely. In addition, though a large proportion of demonstrations involve hospitality workers, the adoption of the COVID-19 issue as a rallying point by both far-left and far-right-wing groups means that some protests could also prompt counterdemonstrations, posing a potential for clashes between rival activists.

IMPACT:	START DATE:	END DATE:
Possible increased security, localized disruptions	2021-07-30 18:01:00.0	2021-09-30 23:59:00.0