

# Soufrière Hills, Montserrat

When a volcano awakes, eruptions can be quite small. It might be gearing up for a really big eruption, or it might just go quiet again. When no-one knows exactly what will happen or when, it is difficult to know how to stay safe.



Montserratvolcano.org

Montserrat used to be a peaceful Caribbean island with no historic eruptions.

Then in 1995, Soufrière Hills began to erupt.

At first, eruptions were small, but scientists thought they might get bigger. So people evacuated to a safe part of the island.



N & A Dennis

Evacuees had to leave their homes and businesses. They lived in tents or churches, with little running water and they survived on foreign aid. They waited to see what the volcano would do.



David Lea

Some got tired of waiting, and moved off the island. Others went into the

danger zone, to collect their things, to work, or even to live in their own houses.



David Lea

Poster © Jeannie Scott / NERC

Two years after the first small eruptions began, the volcano exploded. 19 people were killed, and many more injured. But all those who died were in the danger zone – they had chosen to risk their lives because life in the camps was so difficult.



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15 years later, Soufrière Hills is still erupting. This is what's left of the capital city.



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