

Lahars: Spotlight on Mt. Rainier

Know the hazard and how to prepare

LAHAR

A rapid mudflow capable of carrying large debris (boulders, trees, cars) over long distances. On Mt. Rainier, past lahars have traveled at speeds up to 80 km/hour (50 mi/hour).

Lahars can occur with little warning, with or without a volcanic eruption. The most common, high risk lahars occur without an eruption. On Mt. Rainier, meltwater from snow and ice contribute to the likelihood of lahars without an eruption.

HAZARD vs RISK

Hazards are potential dangers, while risk is the likelihood of a hazard occurring. High risk means a hazard is more likely to happen. However, high risk lahars travel less distance and are less likely to cause extensive damage to human population centers and the environment. Low risk lahars travel significantly farther and are more likely to cause extensive harm and damage.

Mt. Rainier Lahars: Risk vs Potential Damage



High Risk / Low Damage (Blue) Low Risk / High Damage (Brown)

ERUPTION PREPAREDNESS

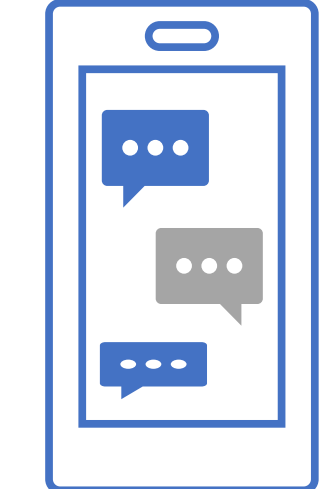


- Plan**
- What is the risk where you live and work?
 - What is your evacuation route and where can you find shelter?
 - What emergency supplies do you need?

Build your emergency kit



<https://www.usgs.gov/programs/VHP/be-informed-make-plan-build-kit>



- Communicate.**
- Local emergency broadcasts
 - NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards
 - USGS Volcano Notification Service alerts
 - Outdoor sirens (in some communities)

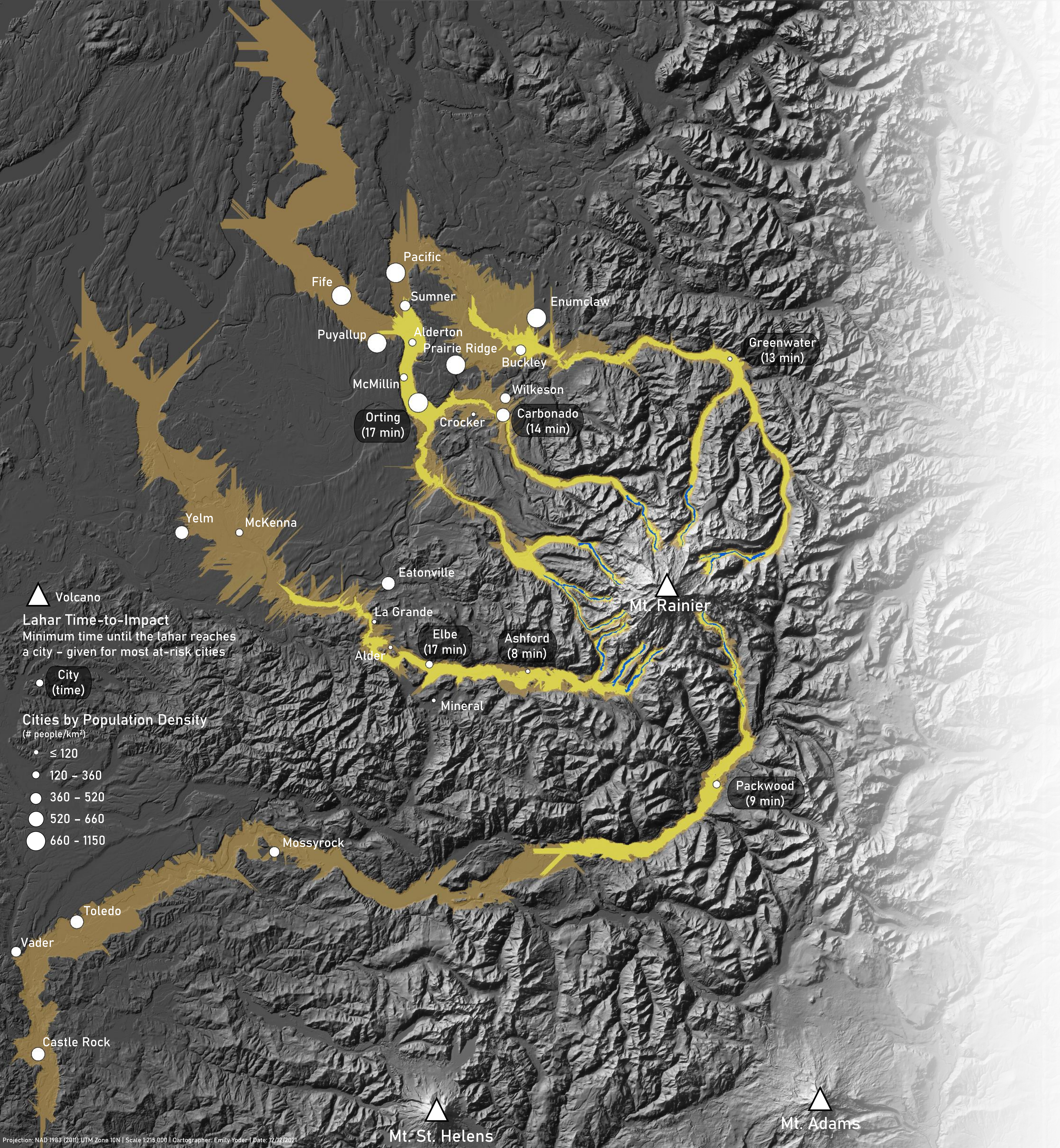
Government, community, and the public - What's your role?



<https://www.usgs.gov/programs/VHP/be-ready-next-volcanic-event>



- Evacuate!**
- In the event of a lahar, go to high ground at least 50 ft above the valley floor



Projection: NAD 1983 (2011) UTM Zone 10N | Scale 1:215,000 | Cartographer: Emily Yoder | Date: 12/12/2021