

January 24, 2018

Notice concerning the Eruption of Mt. Kusatsu-Motoshirane

Thank you for your concern following the recent Mt. Kusatsu-Motoshirane eruption.

As has been reported in the news, it is believed that the eruption was the first on Mt. Kusatsu-Motoshirane in some 3,000 years. Although the eruption warning level has been raised to 3, it should be remembered that Mt. Kusatsu-Motoshirane is located more than five kilometers from the Kusatsu Onsen village. Therefore, the eruption poses absolutely no danger to the village. A temporary “no-entry” zone is being enforced for a two-kilometer area around the crater. However, it is estimated that projectiles ejected from the crater will travel no more one kilometer, and thus there is no danger outside of the no-entry zone.

Volcanic eruptions are classified as magma eruptions, magma-steam eruptions, and steam eruptions. The recent eruption of Mt. Kusatsu-Motoshirane is thought to have been a steam eruption. Accordingly, there is no possibility that magma will spew out of the crater and reach the village. Additionally, the problem of mudslides caused by melting snow, which has been mentioned by some in the media, is unlikely to occur given the type of volcano.

As of today, January 24, the Tenguyama Ski Resort and Onariyama Ski Resort have reopened for business. The Sessho Quad Lift and Aobayama Slope are scheduled to reopen in the coming days.

Please note that the restricted area (500 meters) associated with eruption warning level 1 at Mt. Kusatsu-Shirane, where Yugama Crater Lake is, remains unchanged. Accordingly, National Route 292 (the Shiga Kusatsu Kogen Route) is scheduled to open in April, pending discussions with authorities.

Kusatsu Town is gathering information and responding to the eruption based on science. We encourage everyone to visit Kusatsu Onsen with peace of mind.

Nobutada Kuroiwa
Mayor
Kusatsu Town