



Should I stay or should I go?

Scenario:

You and your family are some of the 600,000 people living in 'Zona Rossa' - the Red Zone - on the slopes of the volcano Mount Vesuvius. You have lived on the SE slopes for your entire life, as have your relatives before you. You own a small vineyard, which has been passed down through the generations to you.

The following letter has arrived, asking you to consider relocation...

To the homeowner,

In 2003 the 'Vesuvia' relocation programme was initiated. This project aims to encourage residents, like yourself, to relocate to safety away from the danger of the volcano to areas outside the Zona Rossa (Red Zone).

You have been selected as one of the 150,000 residents to benefit from a relocation package. Under the plan, you will be entitled to a sum of 30,000 Euros if you agree to move out of the danger zone.

I would urge you to consider your options carefully, and respond to our proposal once you have reached a decision.

Civil Protection Agency

Decision time!

You must now weigh up the pros and cons of relocation. You are provided with a set of statements on the following page to help you to make a decision as to whether you will move out of the Red Zone.

Tasks

1. Organise the statements into two lists: *pros* - reasons for moving and *cons* - reasons for staying.
2. Once you have done this, look at your two piles and read the statements again carefully. Think about the benefits of staying versus the drawbacks. Remember that if you decide to stay, the evacuation plan would be your alternative in the event of an eruption. Weigh up your options and reach a decision.
3. Write a response letter to the Civil Protection Agency, giving your decision and your reasons for that decision.

You live in 'Zona Rossa' – The Red Zone. This is the zone that has been identified as being at risk from complete devastation in the event of pyroclastic flows

Your family have lived there all of their lives.

No magma has been detected within 10km of the surface – indications are that, at the most, it is only in the early stages of preparing for an eruption.

The volcanic soils are extremely fertile and your vineyard is very successful.

Evacuations plans have so far been poorly planned and chaotic – only a few hundred people have taken part and some have been interrupted by sheep on the roads!

A large-scale eruption would affect 3 million people – there is also a 'Blue zone' at risk of Lahars, and a 'Yellow zone' at risk from tephra fallout which can cause roof collapse.

In 1984, 40,000 people were evacuated from the Campi Flegrei area, another volcanic complex near Naples, but no eruption occurred.

Over the past few centuries, Vesuvius' quiet phases have varied from 18 months to 7 ½ years – making the current phase the longest in nearly 500 years.

Evacuation plans assume a good warning time before an eruption. Even with current science and technology, Vesuvius is prone to sudden and violent eruptions.

30,000 Euros is not a lot to relocate your large family.

The volcano is monitored by satellites and ground instruments – the observatory staff will know well in advance of an eruption.

Much of the area you live in has been built since 1944 - quickly, illegally and has flouted building regulations.

Scientists warn that the next eruption could be equal in size and type to the 1631 when many villages were buried and 3,000 people were killed.

Due to the prevailing wind direction, people living to the south and east of the volcano are most at risk.

Although it's not seen as likely that Vesuvius will erupt in the near future, the volcano's tendency towards sudden, explosive eruptions, coupled with the high population densities living on its slopes, make it one of the most dangerous volcanoes in the world.

The Bay of Naples is a natural harbour; a clean, beautiful place to live. Economic opportunities are better than many other parts of Italy.