**Issue 21 - News around the world**

The news update this issue looks at news concerning limestone- and volcano-related hazards.

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| **01 March 2013 - Tragedy as Florida man is swallowed by a limestone sinkhole beneath his bedroom**  Florida resident Jeff Bush is missing presumed dead after a 20 ft deep sinkhole opened underneath his bedroom last night. His brother, whose family shares the house in the suburbs of Tampa with Mr Bush, heard him cry out and rushed to his room. He was shocked to see that the floor had begun to collapse and that Jeff was nowhere to be seen.  The house, although declared safe by government officials before the incident, appears to have been built over one of Florida’s many cave systems in the limestone bedrock that underlies much of the US state. Recent heavy rainfall may have sped up the process by which water dissolves the limestone, causing existing caves and tunnels to grow and their roofs to fall.  The sinkhole, estimated to have grown to a width of 30 feet during the few hours after the initial collapse, is not the first to appear in the Tampa area. However, most are small and do not cause loss of life. |  |
| **1 March 2013 – New crater appears on Mount Etna as eruption continues**  Mount Etna, Europe’s most active volcano, has been sending fresh towering smoke clouds into the air in the latest in a recent series of eruptions. The volcano on the island of Sicily in the Mediterranean Sea began to glow more intensely in the area of its Southeast crater in early December 2012. This minor activity continued for a few weeks and then stopped.  On the morning of 19th February 2013 a spectacular eruption occurred at the Southeast crater, followed by five days of further eruptions and earth tremors. The next ten days saw further eruptions, and it now appears that a new fissure has appeared between two existing cones in the Southeast crater complex. |  |
| **1 April 2013 – Evidence of fresh eruptions at Pacaya, Guatemala**  16 years ago, in 1997, Pacaya in the South American country of Guatemala erupted, showering the surrounding areas in dust and ash. Lava bombs damaged buildings and cars, and a television reporter was killed as he attempted to approach the volcano.  There is now evidence that another eruption might be about to occur as fresh activity has been reported at Pacaya and nearby volcano Fuego. Explosions were felt up to 15 kilometres away as twelve small to moderate eruptions shook Fuego. Lava flows, hot avalanches and rockfalls have also been reported at other volcanoes in the region. |  |