



Recent Eruptions at Mt. Etna : Lesson for Precursors and Hazard Evaluation

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In the last years several flank eruptions occurred on Mt. Etna (2001, 2002-03, 2004, 2006).

The studies and investigations revealed that these eruptions were characterised by different ascent mechanisms of the magma inside the upper crust, and the associated precursors can strongly change for the different eruptions. Therefore eruptions were preceded/accompanied by different precursors, and the eruptive crisis also asked for different hazard evaluations.

The multi-disciplinary monitoring and the associated investigations helped to interpret and understand the ongoing phenomena and the expected scenarios, this providing an useful support for the Civil Defence authorities' decisions and actions to adopt for hazard mitigation.

For these different eruptions the implications both in terms of how the volcano worked and in terms of precursors and hazard evaluation are discussed.