

The helicopter was about 10 feet (3 meters) above the crater's floor. Smoke was rising. It made it hard to see. Hosking had a hard time flying the helicopter. He lost power. He yelled, "We've got a problem."

Benson and Duddy looked up. They saw the volcano wall. Duddy said, "We're dead!" Benson saw the helicopter blades hit the wall. The blades came off. The helicopter crashed to the ground. It broke apart in three pieces.

All three men fell inside the volcano crater. They barely missed the boiling lava pool. They fell in a pocket of fresh air. They weren't hurt.

Ash can damage plane engines.



explained by **science**

Volcanoes affect people in many ways. Most lava flows are slow. They're too slow to run over moving people. But they can run over buildings and roads. Pyroclastic flows are special. They move quickly. They run over people. They're deadly. They're very hot. They cause people to explode. Volcanoes can also cover towns in ash. Ash is heavy. It causes buildings to fall. Volcano gases are most dangerous closest to the opening. They're less dangerous farther away. Air mixes in and spreads the bad gases. The gases are really bad for people with breathing problems. They cause lung problems. They cause headaches. They cause eyes to bleed. Being around gases for a long time is bad. But being around gases for a short time is okay. Volcanoes also help people. They make rich soil. These soils can be used for farming.