

International

Hope dwindles for Bogota volcano survivors

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Rescuers still searched the remains of Armero on Wednesday but burial squads also moved in, gouging long trenches in the volcanic mud with back hoes and dumping truckloads of bodies into them.

Soldiers acting on orders from health officials slogged through the muck with small cans of gasoline, dousing decaying bodies and setting them afire, shooting

animals that had been feeding off the corpses. The men wore masks against the stench.

Residents who had fled began returning to Marquita, nine miles to the north, and other towns that escaped major damage from the mud avalanche that flowed into the Andes valley Nov. 13 after the eruption of the Nevado del Ruiz volcano.

A 15-foot-deep lake of mud buried Armero and parts of other towns below the volcano. At least 25,000 people were killed.

The mayor's office in Mariquita, where the small hospital became an emergency clinic, said about 15,000 people had returned. Scientists monitoring the volcano cautioned against complacency.

"The danger is not over," said Hararoud Tazieff, French minister of natural disasters. "The activity of the volcano will continue for a long time and the greatest danger is the melting and breaking up of the glaciers."

The burial and burning of bodies was ordered to combat typhoid fever and other diseases.



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Smokeout challenges even southern smokers

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The Great American Smokeout marches into the heart of tobacco country today, and its anti-smoking message is spreading even in the land where the golden leaf is the undisputed, multibillion-dollar king.

"We have nearly 80 of our 100 county units participating this year, so there are many activities going on," said Wendy Scott, spokeswoman for the American Cancer Society's North Carolina office. "In 1981, we had 32 units participating."

However, "We take a very low key approach to asking people to quit," said Wanda Jeffers, an organizer for the group in South Carolina's Pee Dee region, where much of that state's \$184 million tobacco crop is produced. "I don't think we make everybody mad."

The cancer society says smoking contributes to heart and lung disease, including cancers.

But the Smokeout brings an unwelcome message for many Southerners, particularly among those whose livelihood depends on tobacco. The crop brought in more than \$3 billion to tobacco growers in eight states in 1984. That money also bolsters department stores, equipment and car dealers and government tax coffers.

"I would hope (the city of) Wilson wouldn't be participating in a Smokeout because if it hadn't been for tobacco, there wouldn't be a Wilson," said Marvin Coghill, president of Standard Commercial Tobacco Co., which has its headquarters in North Carolina's seventh-largest tobacco-producing county.

No ACS Smokeout activities are planned in Wilson, but from smoking essay contests in Nashville, Tenn., to "kick the habit" games in Kentucky and Northern Telecom's frozen turkey giveaway for its North Carolina employees who quit cold turkey, the cancer society's annual midnight-to-midnight Smokeout is drawing more people from tobacco country than ever before.

Across the United States last year, a record 20.4 million smokers participated. Of those, 5.4 million stopped for the day and 3.1 million were still off cigarettes five days later, according to the Gallup Poll. The society was unable to provide a regional breakdown on participation.

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