

Volcanic Lightning

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Volcanic Lightning Latest News

Volcanoes are incredible but highly dangerous natural phenomena and they also have the power to create lightning.

About Volcanic Lightning

- It is a mysterious and powerful phenomenon that **occurs during volcanic eruptions** rather than thunderstorms.
- It is in the form of a **powerful barrage of lightning** which occurs at the **early stages of a volcanic eruption**.
- **Cause:** The main cause is the **collision between ash particles** within the **volcanic plume**.
 - The collision and rubbing of these particles together lead to the generation of static electricity, which, in turn, builds up charges and creates **flashes of lightning**.
- This type of lightning can be **found in two places**
 - At the dense ash clouds located **closer to the ground**.

- **Higher up** in the eruption plume where **ice particles form** (from water vapourised from the magma) and collide, building electric charges and creating lightning visible strikes at higher levels.
- The water content found in volcanic plumes is higher than that in thunderstorms.

Previous Volcanic Lightning

- The earliest was made by **Pliny the Younger** who described it during **Mount Vesuvius** eruption in Italy in **79 AD**.
- Italian **physicist Luigi Palmieri** also recorded this phenomenon between 1858 and 1872.

Source: **TH**

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