

Eruption in Eyjafjallajökull

Status Report: 17:00 GMT, 17 May 2010

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Based on: IMO seismic monitoring; IES-IMO GPS monitoring; IMO hydrological data; IMO weather radar measurements, web cameras, ATDnet – UK Met. Offices lightning detection system, NOAA satellite images and web-based ash reports from the public.

Eruption plume:

Height (a.s.l.): About 6 – 7 km according to radar, occasionally pulsating to 9 km/27,000ft. Winds around the volcano are slightly increasing, resulting in lower plume height.

Heading: The plume is drifting east.

Colour: Dark-gray at 6 km (seen on webcam).

Tephra fallout: Ash has fallen in the Gnúpverjahreppur area, on the road to Stultartangi Power Station and in the Biskupstungur area (very fine-particled and gray).

Lightning: Constant lightning (up to 10 flashes per hour) has been detected.

Noises: In Hafnarfjörður.

Meltwater: Low water discharge at Gígjökull.

Conditions at eruption site: The eruption site has not been visible today. The ash plume rises to 6-7 km and straight up from the site. During a survey on 16 May a considerable amount of ashfall was observed south of Goðasteinn and moved westward later in the day. Frequent lightning was observed followed by thunder.

Seismic tremor: The volcanic tremor is similar to that of the last few days.

Earthquakes: Six microearthquakes have been recorded since midnight. Most of them occurred at depths of more than 10 km.

GPS deformation: Continued horizontal displacements towards the center of Eyjafjallajökull volcano and subsidence.

Overall assessment: The volcanic activity is explosive, but there are indications that it has somewhat lessened since the maximum on 13 May. Considerable ashfall is in the neighbouring communities and is expected to continue. Fluctuations in the strength of the eruption and in ashfall can still be expected.