

Volcano Erupts After Massive Earthquake in Russia's Far East

The Klyuchevskoy volcano on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula erupted on Wednesday, just hours after one of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded struck off the country's eastern coast.

Lava began streaming from the volcano, which is the largest active in the northern hemisphere. The Russian Academy of Sciences' United Geophysical Service said in a Telegram post: "A descent of burning hot lava is observed on the western slope. Powerful glow above the volcano, explosions."

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The eruption followed a massive 8.8 magnitude earthquake that struck early Wednesday, triggering a Pacific-wide tsunami. The quake, which was upgraded from an initial 8.0 reading, is tied for the sixth strongest ever recorded. "Evacuations and emergency declarations" were reported from Russia to Hawaii, with alerts reaching as far as New Zealand.



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Regional authorities confirmed that several people were injured during evacuations. Regional health department chief Oleg Melnikov said, "a few injuries occurred during evacuations, including a hospital patient injured while jumping out of a window. All were in satisfactory condition."

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Standing at 15,584 feet, Klyuchevskoy last erupted in 2023. Observers reported explosions and streams of lava on its western slopes, with ash plumes rising nearly two miles above sea level. Scientists had been predicting the eruption for weeks, noting the crater had been gradually filling with lava and emitting ash plumes.

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The Kamchatka Peninsula, known as the “land of fire and ice,” is home to around 300 volcanoes, 29 of which are active, according to NASA Earth Observatory.

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