

Earthquake Hits Near Yellowstone Supervolcano. Could It Be a Sign of Something Bigger?

A magnitude 3.3 earthquake struck Yellowstone National Park on Thursday morning, shaking an area just miles from the park's massive volcanic caldera and renewing attention on one of the world's most closely watched supervolcanoes.

The U.S. Geological Survey detected the quake at about 9:20 a.m. ET along the Yellowstone River, roughly seven miles from the Yellowstone caldera. The tremor produced only light shaking, according to a report by the Daily Mail.

The quake comes as researchers continue to study Yellowstone's ongoing seismic activity. An international team recently used artificial intelligence to analyze 15 years of seismic recordings and identified about 86,000 previously undetected micro-earthquakes, roughly 10 times more than previously recognized. The USGS has also recorded 11 minor earthquakes in the caldera region over the past three weeks.

Scientists say earthquakes in the area are commonly driven by magma movement, hydrothermal activity and regional tectonic forces. A 2025 study also found the top of Yellowstone's underground magma chamber sits about 2.3 miles beneath the surface, shallower than earlier estimates.



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Despite those findings, researchers stress there is no indication a major eruption is imminent.

"In terms of large explosions, Yellowstone has experienced three at , 1.3, and million years ago," the USGS said.

The agency also cautioned against claims that the volcano is overdue for another catastrophic eruption.

"That being the case, there is still about 100,000 years to go, but this is based on the average of just two time intervals between the eruptions, which is meaningless," researchers noted.

The USGS currently classifies Yellowstone's volcanic activity as "normal" and says gases are continuing to vent through the park's geysers and hot springs rather than building dangerous pressure beneath the surface.

While a 2014 USGS simulation found that a future super-eruption could spread volcanic ash across much of the United States, scientists emphasize that Yellowstone remains stable and there is no evidence that Thursday's earthquake signals an impending eruption.

James Lasher, a seasoned writer and editor at Charisma Media, combines faith and storytelling with a journalism background from Otterbein University and ministry experience in Guatemala and at the LA Dream Center. A Marine Corps and Air Force veteran, he is the author of *The Revelation of Jesus: A Common Man's Commentary* and a contributor to Charisma magazine. For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.