

Hawaii volcano eruption UPDATE: Kilauea crater sees collapse EXPLOSION spew steam 4,500ft

HAWAII volcano Kilauea spewed a plume of steam 4,500ft high after a period of high seismicity triggered a “collapse explosion” at the Halemaumau crater.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) warned on Sunday morning the Hawaii volcano summit collapsed after being hit by 40 earthquakes an hour.

The resulting summit explosion was likened to a magnitude 5.3 earthquake at the volcano’s crater.

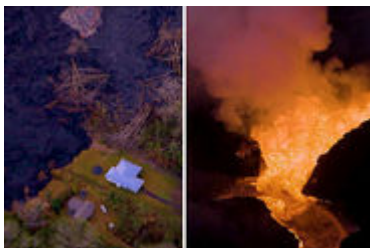
The USGS said: “At 6.52pm HST on June 22, after approximately 25 hours of elevated seismicity, a collapse explosion occurred at the summit producing an ash-poor steam plume that rose 500 ft above the ground surface, 4,500 ft above sea level, before drifting to the southwest.

“The energy released by the event was equivalent to a magnitude 5.3 earthquake.

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“Seismicity dropped abruptly from a high of 40 earthquakes per hour leading up to the collapse explosion to 10 or less earthquakes per hour afterwards.

“Overnight, seismicity gradually increased, reaching about 30 earthquakes per hour by daybreak.”

The resulting plume of steam and ash rose up to 4,500 feet above seas level.

Further slumping of the Hawaii volcano’s Halemaumau crater was noted and the US agency warned subsidence at the summit continues.



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When asked if there are any signs the volcano eruption is slowing down, the agency said there is no indication of this just yet.

The USGS said: "There are no signs of slowing down right now.

"Geologists are still getting speeds of around 15 mph as lava exits the vent, which flows down to around 2-5 mph as it moves around Kapoho Crater and towards the ocean entry."

The Hawaii volcano eruption began on May 3 this year when lava from beneath the Kilauea summit breached into the Lower East Rift Zone.



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Hawaii volcano: Lava flows from Fissure Eight are feeding into the former Kapoho Bay

Lava fissures oozing molten rock across the island have destroyed around 600 homes, a number of popular local sites and have extended the coast by a mile in the former Kapoho Bay.

As of Saturday evening, fountaining from a fissure in the Leilani Estates area is feeding a strong lava flow directed towards Kapoho.

The lava is now seeping into the Pacific Ocean along a 0.6-mile-wide area marked by billowing plumes of steam and volcanic gas.

The total lava flow areas have covered 9.6 square miles of ground along the southeastern part of Big Island.

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15mph

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