

Volcanic Explosivity Index (VEI)

VEI measures the height and volume of tephra ejected from volcanoes. Does not measure the amount of lava, gases, or steam ejected.

VEI	Description	Eruption Cloud Volume	Eruption Cloud Height	Eruption Class	Average Frequency	Famous Examples	
0	Effusive		100 m	Hawaiian	Constant	Kilauea, Piton de la Fournaise, Erebus	
1	Gentle		0.00001 km ³	1 km	Hawaiian / Strombolian	Daily	Nyiragongo (2002), Raoul Island (2006)
2	Explosive		0.001 km ³	5 km	Strombolian / Vulcanian	Weekly	Unzen (1792), Cumbre Vieja (1949), Galeras (1993), Sinabung (2010)
3	Severe		0.01 km ³	15 km	Vulcanian	3 months	Nevado del Ruiz (1985), Soufriere Hills (1995), Nabro (2011)
4	Cataclysmic		0.1 km ³	25 km	Vulcanian / Plinian	Yearly	Mayon (1814), Pelee (1902), Eyjafjallajokull (2010)
5	Paroxysmal		1 km ³	25 km	Plinian	10 years	Vesuvius (79), Fuji (1707), St. Helen's (1980), Puyehue (2011)
6	Colossal		10 km ³	25 km	Plinian / Ultra-Plinian	100 years	Krakatoa (1883), Pinatubo (1991), Laki (1783)
7	Super-colossal		100 km ³	25 km	Ultra-Plinian	1,000 years	Mazama (5600 BC), Thera (1620 BC), Tambora (1815)
8	Mega-colossal			25 km	Ultra-Plinian	10,000 years	Yellowstone (640,000 BC), Toba (74,000 BC), Taupo (24,500 BC)