

Eruption in Eyjafjallajökull

Status Report: 14:00 GMT, 08 May 2010

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Based on: IMO seismic monitoring; IES-IMO GPS monitoring; IMO hydrological data; IMO weather radar measurements, MODIS and NOAA satellite images; reports sent through the IMO web site, a flight over the eruption site today, information from commercial flights.

Eruption plume:

Height (a.s.l.): 18-20,000 ft/5.5-6 km around 08:00h (commercial flight). 15-17,000 ft /4,5-5 km (according to scientists flying over the eruption site 12-13:00h).

Heading: Southeast

Colour: Grey/light gray.

Tephra fallout: In Vík and nearest vicinity. Very small amount of fine, dark ash detected on a white plate in Hvolsvöllur 06:00 this morning.

Lightning: No detections today over the eruption site.

Noises: No reports

Meltwater: Similar to yesterday, daily fluctuations in discharge and temperature.

Conditions at eruption site: The eruption is still in an explosive phase. The tephra and spatter cone continues to build up and is now reaching near the rim of the ice edge around the crater. The plume doesn't rise vertically from the crater, but bends SE-wards due to wind. Plume reaches higher after larger explosions. The tephra fallout near the crater is considerably less than was observed on May 6th. There is little lava flow down Gígjökull and the lava front has not changed for the last couple of days. Very little steam rises from the lava edge. A small lava tunnel was observed with an infrared camera near to the crater.

Seismic tremor: Low, similar to yesterday and similar amplitude on all frequency bands.

Earthquakes: Less earthquake activity, two events, Ml 1.2, detected at 9 and 12 km depth at around 11:00h and two of similar magnitude around 14:00.

GPS deformation: No significant changes were observed at GPS stations around Eyjafjallajökull glacier.

Overall assessment: The eruption is still in a strong explosive phase, but still less than it was late on May 5th and during May 6th. Little or no steam is observed at Gígjökull. Thephra fallout may be expected in the nearest vicinity of the volcano, but nothing in comparison to the first days of the eruption in April.