

## Image: Stunning photo of volcanic lightning at Volcan de Colima in Mexico

April 1 2015, by Nancy Atkinson

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The Colima Volcano (Volcán de Colima) pictured on March 29, 2015 with lightning arcing through the ash plume. Credit: César Cantú

The Colima volcano in Mexico is active again, and has been spewing out large plumes of ash nearly 3 kilometers into the air. Astrophotographer César Cantú captured this spectacular picture of lightning slicing through the cloud of ash.

How can lightning strike in an [ash cloud](#)? Through friction, particles of the ash can charge each other by rubbing against each other during the eruption. When the energy is discharged, it can create lightning bolts.

The Colima volcano is one of the most [active volcanoes](#) in Mexico, and is also called 'Volcán de Fuego' or 'Fire volcano.' It has erupted more than 40 times since the first documented eruption in 1576.

The latest news on this current eruption is that [local authorities](#) have put the volcano on a yellow alert, meaning the volcano is showing increased activity, and residents who live nearby should prepare for a possible evacuation.

Source: [Universe Today](#)

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