

Ecuador volcano spews giant ash column

October 8 2015



Picture taken from Quito of the Cotopaxi volcano spewing ash on October 8, 2015

Ecuador's Cotopaxi volcano, which began erupting in August after being dormant for 138 years, on Thursday coughed up a two-kilometer-high column of ash, officials said.

The giant ash column was visible from Quito, 45 kilometers (30 miles) to the north of the volcano, considered one of the world's most dangerous because its snow cap is vulnerable in an [eruption](#) and because

of its close proximity to densely populated areas.

Ecuador's security coordination ministry said ash rose 2,000 meters above the volcano's crater, and warned some could fall on Quito's southern neighborhoods.

Cotopaxi, one of eight [active volcanoes](#) in Ecuador, last erupted in 1877.

The government declared a state of emergency in August after the volcano roared to life and has been conducting evacuation drills among the population.

An estimated 325,000 people could be affected if the eruption triggers mudslides and avalanches, according to the authorities.

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Citation: Ecuador volcano spews giant ash column (2015, October 8) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-10-ecuador-volcano-spews-giant-ash.html>

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