

Volcanic blast reshaped summit of Indonesia's Mount Sinabung

February 20 2018



This undated combo photo released by the Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation (PVMBG) of Indonesian Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry shows the peak of Mount Sinabung in Karo, North Sumatra before, top, and after with a graphic line superimposed on the area of the new

crater following its eruption on Monday. Volcanologists say the eruption of the volcano that shot ash 5 kilometers (3 miles) high also "annihilated" the mountain's summit. Text on top of frame reads "Before Feb. 19, 2018" and text on bottom reads "After Feb. 19, 2018." (PVMBG via AP)

The eruption of Indonesia's Mount Sinabung that shot ash 5 kilometers (3 miles) high also blew away much of the mountain's summit.

Before and after images from Indonesia's Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation show an enormous chunk missing from the peak, which it called "completely annihilated."

Volcanologist Devy Kamil Syahbana said Tuesday that the chunk, known as the "lava dome," had a volume of at least 1.6 million cubic meters (56.5 million cubic feet).

The volcano in North Sumatra, which has been active since 2010 after centuries of dormancy, erupted explosively on Monday morning.

Hot ash clouds rolled down its slopes, traveling as far as 4.9 kilometers from the crater, and ash reached Lhokseumawe, a city more than 260 kilometers (162 miles) to the northwest.

No-one was injured. Video showed screaming children fleeing a school outside the volcano's exclusion zone as a billowing column of ash rose in the background.

Mount Sinabung is among more than 120 active volcanoes in Indonesia, which is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.



Students play before the start of their class as Mount Sinabung is seen in the background, at an elementary school in Beganding, North Sumatra, Indonesia, Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018. Volcanologists say Monday's eruption of the volcano that shot ash 5 kilometers (3 miles) high also "annihilated" the mountain's summit. (AP Photo/Ahmad Putra)



Students prepare before the start of their class as Mount Sinabung is seen in the background, at an elementary school in Beganding, North Sumatra, Indonesia, Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018. Volcanologists say Monday's eruption of the volcano that shot ash 5 kilometers (3 miles) high also "annihilated" the mountain's summit. (AP Photo/Ahmad Putra)



Motorists ride on a road covered in volcanic ash from the eruption of Mount Sinabung in Gurukinayan, North Sumatra, Indonesia, Monday, Feb. 19, 2018. Rumbling Mount Sinabung on the Indonesian island of Sumatra has shot billowing columns of ash more than 5,000 meters (16,400 feet) into the atmosphere and hot clouds down its slopes. (AP Photo/Endro Rusharyanto)



Mount Sinabung spews volcanic ash as it erupts in Kutarakyat, North Sumatra, Indonesia, Monday, Feb. 19, 2018. Rumbling Mount Sinabung on the Indonesian island of Sumatra has shot billowing columns of ash more than 5,000 meters (16,400 feet) into the atmosphere and hot clouds down its slopes. (AP Photo/Endro Rusharyanto)

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