47. Niigata-Yakeyama

Continuously Monitored by JMA

Latitude: 36°55'15" N, Longitude: 138°02'09" E, Elevation: 2,400 m (Yakeyama) (Triangulation Point)





Overview of Niigata-Yakeyama taken from the north side on September 29, 2003 by the Japan Meteorological Agency

Summary

Niigata-Yakeyama volcano is located on the western side of Niigata Prefecture. It is a small dome-capped stratovolcano with a relative height of roughly 400m, sitting on the Neogene basement rock with an elevation of approximately 2,000m. It is an andesite-dacite volcano. A lava flow and pyroclastic flow deposits are distributed north of the summit. A pyroclastic-flow event occurred in 1773. The younger events are phreatic explosions. This volcano is prone to producing lahars. Fumaroles exist on the summit.

Red Relief Image Map



Figure 47-1 Topography of Niigata-Yakeyama. 1:50,000 scale topographic maps (Kotaki and Myokosan) and digital map 50 m grid (elevation) published by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan were used.

Chronology of Eruptions

Volcanic Activity in the Past 10,000 Years

The first stage of activity at Niigata-Yakeyama volcano began around 3,000 years ago. Approximately 1,000 years ago it began its second stage of activity, followed by the third stage roughly 650 years ago and the fourth stage in 1773. During the first stage volcanic ash and pyroclastic and lava flows were emitted. During the second stage, the largest-scale activity occurred at Niigata-Yakeyama, with a pyroclastic flow which reached the Sea of Japan and a 6.5km long lava flow. During the third stage volcanic ash and a pyroclastic flow were emitted. The pyroclastic flow reached within 1.5km of the sea. At the end of this stage, the lava dome, which corresponds to the current summit of the volcano, was formed. During the fourth stage, the activity in 1773 started with an explosive eruption, followed by a pyroclastic flow. This pyroclastic flow was smaller in scale than those of the previous two stages. No magmatic eruptions have occurred since this eruption, but in the mid-19th century a large amount of sulfur was discharged, and afterwards, during the 20th century, small phreatic explosions occurred (Hayatsu, 1994).

Period	Area of Activity	Eruption Type	Main Phenomena / Volume of Magma
3 ka	Summit area?	Magmatic eruption	Tephra fall or pyroclastic surge.
3 ka	Summit area?	Magmatic eruption, (producing lahar)	Pyroclastic flow, lahar.
3 ka?	Summit area?	Magmatic eruption	Lava flow.
3 ka?	Summit area?	Magmatic eruption	Lava flow.
3 ka?	Summit area?	Magmatic eruption	Pyroclastic flow.
3 ka?	Summit area?	Magmatic eruption	Lava flow.
3 ka?	Summit area?	Magmatic eruption	Lava flow.
3 ka?	Summit area?	Magmatic eruption	Lava flow.
2.5 ka	Summit area?	Magmatic eruption	Tephra fall or pyroclastic surge.

* Volcanic periods, areas of activity, and eruption types taken from the Active Volcano Database of Japan, AIST (Kudou and Hoshizumi, 2006). All years are noted in Western date notation. "ka" within the table indicates "1000 years ago", with the year 2000 set as 0 ka.

A?: Eruption event apparently occurred in year A, but there is a possibility that it actually occurred in a different year.

Historical Activity

Year	Phenomenon	Activity Sequence, Damages, etc.
887 (Ninna 3)	Phreatic eruption → Magmatic eruption	Tephra fall or pyroclastic surge \rightarrow pyroclastic flow to lava flow. It is possible that the eruptive activity occurred in the summit area.
989 (Eien 3)	Magmatic eruption	Tephra fall or pyroclastic surge, lava flow. It is possible that the eruptive activity occurred in the summit area.
1361 (Shohei 16)	Large: Magmatic eruption	Tephra fall or pyroclastic surge, pyroclastic flow, lava flow. The eruptive activity occurred at the summit. Collapse? (Large eruption? Pyroclastic flow? Formation of current dome?) Magma eruption volume = 0.33 km ³ DRE. (VEI 3)
1773 (An'ei 2)	Moderate: Magmatic eruption	Pyroclastic flow to the north. Tephra fall or pyroclastic surge, pyroclastic flow. The eruptive activity occurred at the summit crater (Ohachi). Magma eruption volume = 0.02 km ³ DRE. (VEI 3)
1852 to 1854 (Kaei 5 to Ansei 1)	Phreatic eruption	Tephra fall, sulfur flow. The eruptive activity occurred at the fissure crater on the northwest flank. An eruption began on the night of November 1, 1852, continuing until roughly May of the following year. An eruption also occurred in 1854. The eruption occurred at the fissure on the northwest flank, forming many fumaroles and causing an overflow of a large amount of sulfur. The period of activity appears to have peaked in1852.

Year	Phenomenon	Activity Sequence, Damages, etc.
1949 (Showa 24)	Phreatic eruption	On February 5 and 8, May 19, September 13. Tephra fall and lahar. The eruptive activity occurred at the fissure crater extending from the southwest to the northeast flank of the summit. An explosion sound and tephra fall occurred in the northern Kanto region. On February 8 an eruption being associated by large explosion sound also occurred. May 19, an eruptionoccurred following rumbling. As the snow melted, water of the Haya River discolored on May 14. On July 30, heavy rains produced a lahar, which caused damage. An eruption occurred on September 13.
1962 (Showa 37)	Phreatic eruption	On March 14, Tephra fall. The eruptive activity occurred at the summit crater.
1963 (Showa 38)	Phreatic eruption	On February 14, February 15, March 19, and July 10, tephra fall. The eruptive activity occurred at the summit.
1974 (Showa 49)	Phreatic eruption	On July 28. Tephra fall, lahar. The eruptive activity occurred at the summit fissure crater group. On the early morning of July 28 a fissure eruption phreatic explosion occurred. 650,000 tons of ash fell, reaching as far as 100km to the northeast. A lahar flow also occurred. Volcanic blocks killed 3 who were camping near the summit. (VEI 1)
1983 (Showa 58)	Phreatic eruption	On April 14 and 15, tephra fall. The eruptive activity occurred on the west side of the summit crater. An small phreatic explosion occurred at an old fumarole on the west side of central crater. Ash fall near summit.
1997 to 1998 (Heisei 9 to 10)	Small-scale: Phreatic eruption	Tephra fall on October 29, November 8-9, and December 1997, and February to March 30, 1998. The eruptive activity occurred on the east flank of the summit. Increased fumarolic activity near the summit. Activity was high in May 1987, and from March to April 1989, and light-gray volcanic plumes and snow surface discoloration were observed. Fumarolic activity increased from October 1997. After October 29, 1997 to to March 30, 1998, volcanic ash was issued 4 times. (VEI 1)

X1 Volcanic periods, areas of activity, and eruption types taken from the Active Volcano Database of Japan, AIST (Kudou and Hoashizumi, 2006).

%2 This was previously considered to have been during the Heian period, approximately 1,000 years ago, based on strata positioning relationships with radiocarbon dates and archaeological finds, but it has been reported that recent wiggle matching has produced a date of roughly 1235, during the Kamakura period.

Whole Rock Chemical Composition

Figure 47-2 Whole rock chemical composition (Hayatsu, 2008).

Major Volcanic Activity • 1974 Volcanic Activity

- Figure 47-3 Distribution of volcanic blocks (left) and ash fall (right) in the 1974 eruption (modified from Japan Meteorological Agency (1975)).
- A: Location where climbers were killed. B: Location of sign board destroyed. Red dots: Locations of crater and fumaroles, Hatched area: Lahar. Red line: Location where volcanic blocks in size of baseball to soccer ball were observed. Blue line: Location where volcanic blocks smaller than baseball' ball were observed.

- 1997 to 1998 Eruption

Figure 47-4 Volcanic plumes emitted from Niigata-Yakeyama on October 29, 1997. Courtesy of Disaster Prevention Planning Division, Niigata Prefecture. The photo was taken from the southeast. Two fumaroles can be observed. Snow near the fumaroles turned gray by volcanic ash.

Figure 47-5 Distribution of ash fall on March 30, 1998 at Niigata-Yakeyama (Ito et al., 2000). The amount of ash decreased with the distance from the source.

(m) 200 ① 日別最大噴煙高度 150 100 50 0 | 2005 2008 2009 2010 2011 2006 2007 (年) (回) 10 -2 日別地震回数 8 6 4 2 n na lánda <u>| || || || || |</u> 11 0-**11** 2005 2006 2011 2007 200'8 200'9 2010 (年) ↑伸び (cm) 10 ┳┳┳ GPS観測 丸山尻-宇棚(基準値 15675.93m) 3 5 0 -5 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 (年) ↑伸び (cm) 10 ┳┳┳ GPS観測 糸魚川2(国)-妙高高原(国) (基準値 28776.52m) 5 0 -5 -10 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 (年) ↑伸び (cm) 10 ┳━ GPS観測 宇棚-糸魚川2(国) (基準値 19171.80m) 5 0 -5 -10 | 2005 2010 2011 2006 2008 2009 2007 (年) ↑伸び (cm) 10 ┳ GPS観測 (基準値 11033.76m) 宇棚-妙高高原(国) ത 5 0 -5 -10 + 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 (年) Figure 47-6 Recent volcanic activity (December 1, 2005 to June 30, 2012). ① Daily maximum height of volcanic fumarole (after April 16, 2010) 2 Daily number of earthquakes

Recent Volcanic Activity

③ GPS baseline between Maruyamajiri and Udana

④ GPS baseline between Itoigawa 2 and Myoko Kogen

5 GPS baseline between Udana and Itoigawa 2

6 GPS baseline between Udana and Myoko Kogen

Figure 47-7 Activity of shallow VT earthquakes (blue circles) and deep low-frequency earthquakes activity (red circles) observed by a regional seismometer network (October 1, 1997, to June 30, 2012). Epicenter distribution (upper left), space-time plot (N-S cross-section) (upper right), E-W cross-section (lower left) and magnitude-time diagram (by scale) (lower right).

Information on Disaster Prevention

Hazard Map

Niigata-Yakeyama Volcano Disaster Prevention Map (Wide Area Version) - published in May 2004 by Itoigawa General Affairs Division and Planning and Coordination Department (Itoigawa Civil Engineering Office), Regional Development Department, Itoigawa Area Promotion Bureau.

http://www.city.itoigawa.lg.jp/dd.aspx?menuid=3494

② Volcanic Alert Levels (Used since March 31, 2011)

Volcanic Alert Levels for the Niigata-Yakeyama Volcano (Valid as of March 31, 2011)

Warning and Forecast	Target Area	Levels & Keywords	Expected Volcanic Activity	Actions to be Taken by Residents and Climbers	Expected Phenomena and Previous Cases
Eruption Warning	Residential areas and areas closer to the crater	5 Evacuate	Eruption or imminent eruption causing significant damage to residential areas	Evacuate from dangerous residential areas	 Magmatic eruption or imminent Magmatic eruption, with pyroclastic flow, lava flow, and/or lahar by melted snow (during periods when snow has accumulated) reaching residential areas. Past Examples 887: A pyroclastic flow and lava flow occurred. The pyroclastic flow is considered to have reached the Sea of Japan. The lava flow extended approximately 5km from the crater. 1361: A pyroclastic flow reached the Sea of Japan. 1773: Pyroclastic flow. Part flowed to the south as well.
		4 Prepare to evacuate	Possibility of eruption causing significant damage to residential areas (increased probability).	Those within the alert area should prepare for evacuation. Those requiring protection in the event of an disaster must be evacuated.	 Possibility of eruption creating pyroclastic flow, lava flow, and/or lahar by melted snows (during periods when snow has accumulated) which reach residential areas. Past Examples No observed examples Pyroclastic flow and/or lava flow which are expected to reach residential areas if the eruption grows larger. Past Examples No observed examples
Crater Area Warning	Non-residential areas near the volcano	3 Do not approach the volcano	Eruption or prediction of eruption causing significant damage to areas near residential areas (entering area is life threatening).	Residents can go about daily activity as normal. When necessary, evacuation preparations should be performed for those requiring protection in the event of a disaster. Access restrictions for dangerous areas, including mountain climbing and mountain access prohibitions, etc.	•Eruption or possibility of eruption scattering volcanic blocks within a radius of roughly 4 km around the summit. Past Examples No observed examples
	Crater area	2 Do not approach the crater	Eruption or prediction of eruption affecting area around crater (entering area is life threatening).	Residents can go about daily activity as normal. Access to crater area restricted, etc.	•Eruption or possibility of eruption scattering volcanic blocks within a radius of roughly 2 km around the summit. Past Examples 1974: A Phreatic eruption occurred, scattering volcanic blocks approximately 1 km from the crater.
Eruption Forecast	Inside the crater	1 Normal	Little or no volcanic activity. Volcanic ash may be emitted within the crater as a result of volcanic activity (entering area is life threatening).	Access to interior of and area around crater restricted as necessary, etc.	•Little or no volcanic activity. Possibility of discharge which may affect summit crater interior and nearby area. Current status as of March, 2011

Note 1) The volcanic blocks mentioned in this table refer mainly to blocks large enough that their trajectories are not affected by wind.

Social Circumstances

- Itoigawa City, Niigata Prefecture: 47,137 (as of October, 2011)
- Myoko City, Niigata Prefecture: 35,103 (as of October, 2011)
- Kotani Village, Kita-Azumi District, Nagano Prefecture: 3,171 (as of October, 2011)

O National Parks, Quasi-National Parks, Number of Climbers

- Joshinetsu Kogen National Park
- The Itoi River area, including Niigata-Yakeyama, was certified as a "Japanese Geopark" in December, 2008.
- The Itoi River area, including Niigata-Yakeyama, was certified as a "World Geopark" in August, 2009.

http://geo-itoigawa.com/

Number of mountain-climbers: Estimated to be 300 to 400 per year (no detailed statistics are available) ③ Facilities

• Fossa Magna Museum

Monitoring Maps

Wide Area

* Including Myokosan monitoring network.

* Monitoring sites with multiple observation instruments are indicated by small black dots, and other symbols indicate types of monitoring.

1:200,000 scale regional maps (Toyama and Takada) published by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan were used.

Figure 47-8 Regional monitoring network.

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