

Significance of pumice flow deposits in the primary stage of Unzen volcano

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Pyroclastic flow deposits rich in pumiceous block were discovered at several area in the initial stratigraphic level of Unzen volcano. Although these deposits are monolithologic, vesicularity of pumice gradually change to dense ill-vesiculated essential block. Pumice show diverse features both in phenocryst size and phenocryst assemblage corresponding to the flow units. Unzen volcano has been repeatedly generating block and ash flow due to formation of lava domes throughout its growth history. These features suggest that explosive eruption of intermediate style between "Block and ash flow" and "Pumice flow" occurred in several times in the primary stage of Unzen volcano.