

Unusual Thermo-activity at Tarumae Volcano, Japan soon after the Tokachi-oki Earthquake, in 2003 (Mj8.0)

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We observed unusual thermo-activity at some fumaroles on Tarumae volcano, Japan. At the end of Sep. 2003, earthquake swarms occurred beneath Tarumae volcano, and gas flux obviously increased. From Oct. 5 2003, some weak glows visible only by the high-sensitive cameras in the nighttime were observed intermittently, and these points moved night by night. On Oct. 7, the temperature was the highest yet measured and we found ash deposits of about 24 m³. These unusual activities occurred soon after the Tokachi-oki earthquake on Sep. 26 2003 (Mj8.0). We interpret that these weak glows represent high-temperature rocks or spontaneous combustions of sulfur. We consider that the supply of large amount of gas is responsible for development of vents. The ash ejection was provably due to the intense gas flow.