

Scientists Find Records of Rare 'Earthquake Lights'

Examples of the phenomenon go back centuries and have sometimes been mistaken for UFOs.

[Elizabeth Weise](#), January 2, 2014

***Note from Pastor Kevin Lea:** This might be “new” to the scientists behind this article, but it is not new to those who follow creation scientist, Dr. Walt Brown. Several years ago, he published an article explaining how crystals in the crust and mantle align and create a voltage when placed under the stresses associated with earthquakes. He also explains how this known phenomenon, called the “piezoelectric effect,” offers an explanation for earth’s radioactivity, something that evolutionists cannot explain. For those wanting a deeper understanding, go to <http://www.creation-science.com/onlinebook/Radioactivity.html>.*

Story Highlights

- Earthquake lights are a rare phenomenon that can occur just before large temblors
- They are rare and happen only near specific geological formations
- Researchers have compiled a list of 65 well-documented cases of the lights dating back to 1600

They've been mistaken for UFOs or dismissed as hallucinations. But geologists have collected a near-definitive list of the rare but fascinating phenomena known as earthquake lights.

Certain types of earthquakes in certain areas can set off blazes of light seconds — sometimes days — before the actual quake. These can manifest as floating balls of light, bluish columns shooting up out of the earth and even reverse lightning, reaching up into the sky from the ground.

A study out Thursday in the journal *Seismological Research Letters* shows such quakes are tied to a specific type of temblor in areas where certain geological formations occur. Though the lights are rare, researchers were able to document 65 examples from 1600 to the present.

- Seconds before the L'Aquila, Italy, earthquake struck in 2009, pedestrians saw flames of light 4 inches high flickering above the stone-paved Francesco Crispi Avenue in the town's historical city center.
- In Pisco, Peru, a naval officer saw pale-blue columns of light bursting four times in succession out of the water Aug. 15, 2007, as a magnitude-8.0 earthquake struck. [Security cameras](#) in the city captured images of the lights as well.
- On Nov. 12, 1988, a bright purple-pink globe of light moved through the sky along the St. Lawrence River near the city of Quebec, 11 days before a powerful quake.
- On April 18, 1906, blue flames hovered at the base of foothills west of San Francisco just before the great earthquake hit. South of the city, in San Jose, one street was ablaze with fire in a faint but beautiful rainbow color.

The mechanism that causes the phenomenon occurs only in specific and rare conditions, said Friedemann Freund, a professor of physics at San Jose State University and senior scientist at NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, Calif. Rocks such as basalt and gabbro, created deep in the Earth's mantle, contain tiny defects in their crystals. When such rocks are stressed, those defects momentarily generate electrical charges...

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