

Volcanic Theory goes up in Smoke

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Volcano spewing ash

Scientists have discovered that volcanoes once considered to be dormant may in fact be active. Researchers from the California Institute of Technology used satellites to record any ground movements that took place within volcanoes in the Andes.

Out of the 900 Chilean volcanoes surveyed, four were found to be unexpectedly active. This was achieved by taking multiple photos of the volcanoes and then observing any differences found at differing time intervals. Any geological differences are known as the radar interference fringe.

The findings of the experts suggest that a global record of volcanoes should be created using satellite imagery. Although this cannot warn of imminent eruptions, it is hoped that vulnerable regions can be highlighted by this technique. This would allow effective emergency plans to be drawn up in order to reduce the potential hazards of a volcanic eruption.