

Weekly report

Institut de physique du globe de Paris

Observatoire volcanologique et sismologique de Martinique

Activity of Mount Pelée

Saint-Pierre, August 21, 2026, 15:00 local time (GMT-4)

Volcanic seismic activity

Between August 14, 2026 at 16:00 (UTC) and August 21, 2026 at 16:00 (UTC), the OVSM has recorded **117** volcanic earthquakes:

- **115 volcano-tectonic** type earthquakes. 2 have a magnitude (local magnitude M_{lv} or duration magnitude M_d) higher than 1 with one having a magnitude higher than 2. Its magnitude is **$M_{lv} = 2.3$** . The vast majority of these earthquakes are located at depths between 1.0 and 1.5 km below the summit of the volcano. However, 2 volcano-tectonic earthquakes have been located at depths between 4 and 5 km below sea level, beneath Mont Pelée.
- **1 shallow long-period** type earthquake and **1 shallow hybrid** type earthquake of low energy (magnitude $M_{lv}=0.3$ and $M_{lv} = 0.85$ respectively) located around 1 km beneath the summit of the volcano.

No earthquake was felt by the population.

The week before, the OVSM had recorded 54 earthquakes of volcanic origin. As of August 21, and during the last 4 weeks, the OVSM recorded a total of 404 volcanic earthquakes, corresponding to an average of **101 volcanic earthquakes** per week.

Deformation at Mont Pelée

Since May 2026, the OVSM has recorded multi-centimeters ground displacements in the summit area of Mont Pelée. Over the past four weeks, the maximum displacement rates are on the order of **1.2 cm per month**, slightly declining in comparison to the previous month. These displacements are consistent with deformation of the volcanic edifice induced by an inflating pressure source located at a depth of approximately 1 km beneath the summit.

The probability of eruptive activity in the short term remains low. However, considering the observations accumulated over the past months and years, an evolution of the situation in the medium term (weeks to months) cannot be excluded.

The alert level, in accordance with the provisions planned by the authorities, is currently **YELLOW: vigilance**.

For more details on longer-term observations and interpretations of volcanic activity, please refer to the monthly bulletins of the OVSM.

The Director's office of OVSM-IPGP

Informations

The data in this report are preliminary and subject to change depending on their subsequent analysis.

The reports of OVSM-IPGP, including detailed monthly bulletins, are available at <https://www.ipgp.fr/observation/ovs/ovsm/>. You can also find us on our [Bluesky](#) et [Facebook](#) accounts. Locations of volcano-tectonic and tectonic earthquakes determined by the OVSM-IPGP are available in real-time at <https://renass.unistra.fr/fr/zones/les-antilles/>.

To receive the weekly report by email, simply request it by mail at: infos@ovmp.martinique.univ-ag.fr

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