Gone in 900 seconds: 21st November 2012 Te Maari Eruption Sequence.

Fumaroles steaming normally, seismic signal quiet.

Eruption begins, first jets appear.



Eruption column continues to expand vertically. PDCs reach maximum extent (500m from vent).

2nd steam rich pulse. PDCs have finished. Eruption column now ~1.5km above vent.

Column has reached 400m above vent, travelling upwards at 70km.

Pyroclastic Density Currents (PDCs) start to form to the north as a result of column collapse. PDC to the west begins while northern PDC continues. Eruption column continues to simultaneously collapse and expand vertically.

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Expanding column starts to blow over to NE with wind. Ashfall begins.

Ash fall continues as the column is blown by wind. Main energy of the eruption has dissipated.

Ash and steam clouds have drifted away. Steaming vents remain.

Images and seismic signal recorded at Karewarewa monitoring station, 3km NW of Te Maari.



Graphic : Craig Miller, GNS Science.