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Fall-experiments on Merapi basaltic andesite and constraints on the generation of pyroclastic surges

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Abstract. We have performed fall-experiments with basaltic andesite samples from Merapi volcano, using an apparatus designed to ana... samples heated up to 850°C. Relative pressure changes during im... fragmentation of the samples were measured by a pressure trans... From 200°C, dynamic pressure waves were formed on impact and fragmentation. Peak and duration of the pressure signal, and degr... fragmentation were found to strongly increase with increasing terr... of rock samples. The pressure waves are most likely generated by heating of air forcing it to expand. We propose that the observed p... changes are analogues to pyroclastic surges that may be generat... impact and fragmentation of large blocks during passage of a pyroc... flow over a steep cliff. We infer that rock temperatures of ca. 400°... sufficient for this process to occur, a temperature common in pyroc... flows even in distal reaches.

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