

# **Pompeii victim had his brain turned into GLASS: 79AD Vesuvius eruption vitrified grey matter and vaporized body fluids**

By STACY

- Experts reexamined the remains of a man who died in the 79 AD Mount Vesuvius eruption
- They found splatters of a shiny, black material that was once the man's brain
- The team suggests the heat was so intense it transformed the brain into glass
- A solidified spongy mass inside of the man's chest bones was also discovered
- This suggests the heat ignited body fat and vaporized soft tissues
- This was followed by a rapid drop in temperature that vitrified the brain matter

Heat created by the devastating Mount Vesuvius eruption in 79 AD was so intense it transformed one victim's brains into glass, archaeologists have discovered.

The team spotted the vitrified remains which appeared as splatters of a shiny, black material in the skull of what they believe was a 25-year-old man.

A solidified spongy mass inside of the man's chest bones was also discovered, suggesting the heat ignited body fat and vaporized soft tissues, which was followed by a rapid drop in temperature that vitrified the brain matter.

The remains were first unearthed during the 1960s at the Collegium Augustalium in Herculaneum, but it wasn't until years later was the body fully examined.

The eruption of Vesuvius in the year 79 instantly killed the inhabitants of Pompeii and neighboring Herculaneum, burying an area 12 miles from the volcano in ash in just a few hours.

Pier Paolo Petrone, the study's lead, said in an email to Fox News: 'The preservation of ancient brain remains is an extremely rare find, but this is the first-ever discovery of ancient human brain remains, vitrified by heat at about [950 degrees Fahrenheit] produced by a volcanic eruption.'

Experts believe that, because how the victim was positioned, he may have been sleeping when the catastrophic disaster rolled through the town.

And Petrone believes the victim may have been a caretaker for the building, which was used to worship a former emperor.

Petrone told The Guardian that he 'noticed something shining inside the head' while examining the body.

Because it was only in the victim's skull, he concluded it must be 'vitrified remains of the brain' - something that has never been found among the victims of this devastating eruption.

It is also believed that this man was killed instantly when superheated gases, ash and rock fragments engulfed the town.

The team suggests temperatures may have hit 968 degrees Fahrenheit, according to charred wood also found around the site.

The resulting solidified spongy mass found in the victim's chest bones is also unique among other archaeological sites and can be compared with victims of more recent historic events like the firebombing of Dresden and Hamburg in World War II, the article said.

The flash of extreme heat was followed by a rapid drop in temperatures, which vitrified the brain material, the authors said.

'This is the first time ever that vitrified human brain remains have been discovered resulting from heat produced by an eruption,' Herculaneum officials said.

[https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-7918515/Mount-Vesuvius-eruption-79-AD-extreme-turned-brain-25-year-old-man-glass.html?ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490&ito=1490](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-7918515/Mount-Vesuvius-eruption-79-AD-extreme-turned-brain-25-year-old-man-glass.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)

