



Fulgurite



It is not truly a mineral or a fossil, fulgurite is sometimes referred to as petrified lightning. The word comes from Latin (fulgur = lightning), and is amorphous “lechatelierite” silica glass. When lightning or electricity strikes a conductive surface, the temperature can skyrocket to at least 2,950 F and melt surrounding silica or quartz leaving behind a glass tube. Lechatelierite can also be formed when a meteor impacts the ground, or during volcanic explosions.

They vary in shape, size, and color, and can be very fragile. Larger pieces have been recorded between 13 - 30 feet in length. Their shape mimics the path that the electrical charge took.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fulgurite>

This entry was originally posted in Articles on fossils/gem/minerals and tagged fulgurite, lightning, mineral, petrified, rock on June 16, 2015 [<https://ndrockclub.org/2015/06/16/fulgurite/>].