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
BALL LIGHTNING does not look like "lightning." Instead, it usually appears as a mysterious glowing sphere which drifts horizontally through the air. It is typically the size of a grapefruit, but sometimes appears as small as a pea, or as large as a bus. It sometime hovers at a few feet or tens of feet altitude, but can also bounce along the ground. It usually lasts only a few seconds, but sometimes persists much longer. Various colors of "BL" have been seen, sometimes it changes colors, and sometimes it has internal structures such as glowing layers or moving sparks. Sometimes it disappears silently, other times it explodes with extreme violence.

At one time BL was thought to be extremely rare, but this was because most BL eyewitnesses feared ridicule and wouldn't come forward. In reality, five percent of the population has seen BL close up. Today most researchers agree that it is real, yet its nature is still highly controversial, and no sensible theories yet exist to explain it. (For example, BL cannot be hot plasma, since plasma would be much lighter than air and would immediately rise like fire, or like a balloon.) See Scientific American's [Ask the Experts](#) under [BALL LIGHTNING](#), also [SAINT ELMO'S FIRE](#)

### Make Your Own Ball Lightning?!

("Maser theory" plasmoids in kitchen microwave oven)

- [Bigger better balls](#), and [Easiest BL](#), carbon fiber from [Matt Crowley](#)
- [Microwave Oven](#) Ball Lightning (msg from usa-tesla listserv)
- [Candle in microwave](#) (msg from usa-tesla listserv)
- [Jean-Louis Naudin's MW plasmoids](#)
- [Microwave Oven Recipe: Ball Lightning](#)
- [More Microwave BL](#)
- [Even more microwave BL](#)
- [C. Sanders'](#) attempted replication of Corum/Corum reports
- [Some possible experiments](#)
- [Extremely stable ion streams](#), any relation?
- [Abstract: Golka1.html](#) from [Atmospheric Electricity Page](#)
- [Microwave oven BL](#), from [Keelynet](#)

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LOOKING FOR BOOKS? Try searching [amazon.com](http://amazon.com):

'ball lightning'   (try "atmospheric electricity" too)

## Ball Lightning Research

- [GOOGLE SCHOLAR: Ball Lightning](#)
- [Sanduloviciu](#)
  - [Nonlinear self-organized plasma phenomena](#) (.pdf)
  - [...anomalous transport in plasma devices](#) (.pdf)
  - [...behavior of a hi-freq plasmoid](#) (.pdf)
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- [Some Ball Lightning Books](#)
- [Some Ball Lightning Papers](#)
- [Ball Lightning Papers, Literature Search](#)
- [Vortex Fireball theory](#)
- [Chen/Pakter](#) plasma-torus paper (2001)
- [Corum Ball Lightning paper fm/TCBA](#)
- [Call for papers](#), ISBL 2001 (july 26-29 St. Louis)
- [Symposium Abstracts](#) ISBL St. Louis 2001
- [Electron power systems](#) plans toroid exper.
- [Ball lightning and metastable substance](#)
- [Royal Society BL report Dec 2001](#)
- [Tornado experiment forms sphere of burning fuel](#)
- [Sandia ICOPS99: Ball Lightning](#)
- [ALP project](#) (anom. lum. phenomena)
- [Prof. Yoshi-Hiko Ohtsuki](#), Dept of Physics, Waseda U, Jp
- [Masashi Kamogawa](#) Waseda U., Jp
- [ISBL-99 Report](#) Int'l Seminar on Ball Lightning
- [New E. Lewis page](#) (BL/plasmoid/gorgon articles)
- [Planetophysical Function of Vacuum Domains](#), A.N. Dmitriev, V.L. Dyatlov, A.V. Teteno
- [Nocturnal Lights, Norway](#)
- [Thunderstorm gamma rays](#)

## Journals with Ball Lightning on the WWW

- [Anatomy of a Lightning Ball](#) (Science News)
- [Abstracts](#) of the Journal for Scientific Exploration:
  - [Ball Lightning and St. Elmo's Fire as Forms of Thunderstorm Activity](#)
  - [BL Penetration into Closed Rooms: 43 Eyewitness Accounts](#)
- Ball Lightning papers on the [INE web page](#):
  - [Tornadoes and Ball Lightning](#)
  - [Gorgons, Tornadoes, and Plasmoid Phenomena](#)
  - [Concerning Production of Elements and Plasmoids](#)
  - [Plasmoid Phenomena](#)
  - [Considerations about Plasmoid Phenomena and Superconductivity Phenomena](#)
- [Atmospheric Electricity HomePage](#)
  - [Abstract: Handel talk](#)
  - [Abstract: Golka1.html](#)
- [TORRO J. of Meteorology, Ball Lightning](#)
  - [Report: 18th Torro conference \(BL\)](#)
  - [1994 Index](#)
  - [1995 Index](#)
  - [1996 Index](#)
- [4th Torro Conference: Ball Lightning](#)

## Links to Other Websites:

- [The Straight Dope: Does BL really exist?](#)
- [Metafilter: BL video Xinjiang \(near the end, w/lightning\)](#)
- [May 1899 Nikola Tesla red BL story](#) and [1899 illustration](#)
- [Oct 2002 article](#) in Fortean Times
- [Znidarsic's BL chapter](#)
- [Electron power systems](#) plans toroid exper.
- [Ball lightning photo](#)
- [Spectres in the Storm](#)

- [Boules de Feu](#) (about.com UFO section)
- [Two eyewitness BL accounts](#)
- [NRP](#), Kolok's "plasmak"
- [Mysterylights](#) page
- [Geophysical "Meteors"](#)
- [Hubler/Abrahamson: BL is silicon aerogel](#)
- [Newsgroup: alt.sci.natural.phenomena.unusual](#)
- [Ball Lightning Articles](#) from Corliss' [Science Frontiers](#) newsletter
- [S. Goodfellow page](#)
- [A.D. Johnson](#)
- [BL Article](#) at New Scientist magazine
- [Computer animation of Ball Lightning](#)
- [Ball Lightning radio show](#), and [more BL](#)
- [What is Ball Lightning?](#)
- [SciAm "Ask Experts" page](#)
- [NY Times Article](#)
- [Mysteries of Ball Lightning, X-tagger page](#)
- [Koloc Ball Lightning article](#)
- [Ball Lightning](#) email discussion
- ["Tiny ball lightning"](#) article, BL and Cold Fusion
- [Ball Lightning Stories](#) from sci.geo.meteorology
- [Kugelblitz Page](#) (German)
- [J. Logajan's CF page](#), Plasmak artificial BL by Paul Koloc
- [Message from Jonathan Woithe](#)
- [Plasma Sci and Tech](#), and [archive](#) of sci.physics.plasma newsgroup
- Use [Dejanews](#) to search newsgroups for "ball lightning" keyword

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"It is not uncommon for engineers to accept the reality of phenomena that are not yet understood, as it is very common for physicists to disbelieve the reality of phenomena that seem to contradict contemporary beliefs of physics" - *H. Bauer*

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"Round about the accredited and orderly facts of every science there ever floats a sort of dust-cloud of exceptional observations, of occurrences minute and irregular and seldom met with, which it always proves more easy to ignore than to attend to... Anyone will renovate his science who will steadily look after the irregular phenomena, and when science is renewed, its new formulas often have more of the voice of the exceptions in them than of what were supposed to be the rules." - *William James*

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