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BOCA CHICA, TEXAS

The word deluge typically describes a downpour, but this deluge goes upwards. The water you see here gushing up through the platform of the SpaceX facility in Texas is a demonstration of the system designed to protect the launch mount.

The deluge system is being installed because Starship, which stands 120m (394ft) tall and is the most powerful rocket ever built, produces a destructive amount of thrust. The first launch of a 'fully stacked' Starship in April ended in an explosion four minutes into its (crewless) flight. But before it self-destructed, Starship's 30 Raptor engines blasted a huge crater in the platform beneath its launch mount, causing rocks and debris to rain down on the surrounding area.

By blasting water upwards beneath the next Starship to take off, SpaceX hopes to protect the launch pad as well as dampen the noise generated by the reusable rocket's launch.

SPACEX

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