



MT. SPURR UPDATE

JBER Office of Emergency Management

In this update:

- Mt. Spurr's Current Condition
- Mt. Spurr's effects on JBER
- Ashfall Preparedness
- Health Risks of Ash
- Useful Resources

Mt. Spurr's Current Condition

The Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) currently Lists Mt Spurr as Alert Level **YELLOW** (Advisory). Recently the earthquake activity has migrated back to the summit area just north of the historical eruption site from 1953 and 1992. The AVO analysis is that this has slightly reduced the current level of concern below the previous "50/50" estimate for an eruption at Crater Peak. Nevertheless, this drives an emphasis on the importance of taking necessary precautions and preparedness actions.

Mt. Spurr's effects on JBER

The duration of the eruption and subsequent ashfall may vary. For example, in 1992, it was a few hours. In 1953, it was roughly two days.



Visibility will be greatly reduced, potentially to zero, during peak ashfall. Travel will be impossible. Plan accordingly.

Depending on a variety of conditions, there will most likely be utility interruptions; primarily electric and communications.

Volcanic ash is significantly different from other ash. It is much heavier, finer, harder, insoluble, and contains minerals and volcanic ash. It can be highly abrasive and acidic. Whereas ash from a fire tends to be much lighter and fluffier and easier to dispose of.

Expect limited logistics into the Anchorage basin during an eruption event. Normal shipments via barge, air, and road may be interrupted or delayed.

Ashfall Preparedness

IAW the International Volcanic Health Hazard Network (IVHHN) guidelines, consider taking the following precautions in preparation for a potential ashfall event:

1. Maintain dust masks and eye protection for each member of your household.
2. Have spare filters for your vehicle(s) as the ash will inevitably clog them up and cause your vehicle to stall.
3. Keep one (1) gallon of drinking water per/person-per/day on hand.
4. Stockpile enough non-perishable food to sustain all members and pets of your household for at least seven (7) days.
5. Maintain a quality first-aid kit and necessary medications (consider refilling prescriptions to avoid running out in the event of service interruptions).
6. Keep a small amount of cash on-hand to ensure you can participate in commerce with or without digital currency systems.
7. Prepare for the possibility to utility interruptions. This could impact electric, heating, water supplies and/or communications.
8. Close all doors and windows and take any other precautions to prevent ash from getting into your home.

Health Risks of Ash

Personnel with preexisting respiratory, skin, or eye conditions may be prone to injury due to contact/exposure to volcanic ash. If members must perform normal work outdoors during ashfall, or where settled ash may be resuspended, the elective use of filtering facepiece devices (i.e. dust masks), goggles, and clothing that covers as much skin as possible may provide relief. If members must directly perform ash cleanup activities, they may be required to wear specific Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) depending on the nature of their work.



Useful Resources

- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO)
- National Weather Service Ash Advisory Center
- CDC: Health Effects of Volcanic Air Pollution
- Air Force Be Ready: Build a Kit

Points of Contact

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