



JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON PUBLIC AFFAIRS MT. CLEVELAND VOLCANO FACT SHEET

The Alaska Volcano Observatory is closely monitoring Mt Cleveland volcano after its status was updated from yellow to orange. The volcano has not erupted, but the development of a lava dome in the summit crater indicates that sudden explosions of rock and ash are possible with little or no warning.

Mount Cleveland volcano is about 940 miles southwest of Anchorage. It is one of several active volcanoes within ash-fall distance of JBER. Associated Press reported that Mt Cleveland volcano last erupted on Dec 29, 2012 which produced an ash cloud up to 15,000 feet. Alaska Volcano Observatory stated that ash clouds, if produced, could exceed 20,000 feet above sea level.

JBER is not close enough to the volcano to be directly impacted by lava or an explosive eruption, but volcanic ash from a potential eruption could seriously impact air travel and the JBER community.

Volcanic ash consists of tiny jagged pieces of rock and glass. Ash is hard, abrasive, mildly corrosive, conducts electricity when wet, and does not dissolve in water. Ash is



spread over broad areas by wind and can create health hazards.

Falling ash can turn daylight into complete darkness. In extreme cases, accompanied by rain and lightning, the gritty ash can lead to power outages, prevent communications, and disorient people.

Stay informed

Pay attention to news reports from local radio and television stations to keep up with changing conditions at the volcano.

For information about JBER reporting conditions, monitor the [JBER Facebook Page](#), www.jber.af.mil or call 552-INFO. Messages will be updated as frequently as necessary in the event of an emergency.

Links for more information about volcanoes and volcanic ash safety are available on the Alaska Volcano Observatory Web site at www.avo.alaska.edu. Additional preparedness information is available at <http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/ash/>. Potential protective measures may include some to all of the following depending on severity of the ash fallout.

Protective measures for volcanic ash

Have disaster supplies on hand:

- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First aid kit and manual.
- Emergency food and water.
- Non-electric can opener.
- Essential medicines.
- Dust mask and sturdy shoes.

Occupant Protection from Falling Ash:

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.

- Use goggles and wear eyeglasses instead of contact lenses.
- Use a dust mask or hold a damp cloth over your face to help with breathing.
- Stay away from areas downwind from the volcano to avoid volcanic ash.
- Stay indoors until the ash has settled unless there is a danger of the roof

collapsing.

- Close doors, windows, and all ventilation in the house (chimney vents, furnaces, air conditioners, fans, and other vents).

- Clear heavy ash from flat or low-pitched roofs and rain gutters.

- Avoid running car or truck engines. Driving can stir up volcanic ash that can clog engines, damage moving parts, and stall vehicles.

- Avoid driving in heavy ash fall unless absolutely required. If you have to drive, keep speed down to 35 MPH or slower.

- DPW will assist to keep ash out of buildings, machinery, vehicles, downspouts, water supplies, and wastewater systems (for example, storm drains) as much as possible. The most effective method to prevent ash-induced damage to machinery is to shut down, close off or seal equipment until ash is removed from the immediate environment, but this may not be practical in all cases, especially for critical facilities.

- Minimize exposure to airborne ash by using dust or filter masks (or a wet cloth, for example a handkerchief) and minimizing travel.

Actions to take if an ash cloud is approaching

- Close doors and windows.

- Place damp towels at door thresholds and other draft sources. Tape drafty windows.
- Protect sensitive electronics and do not uncover until the environment is totally ash-free.
- If you have chronic bronchitis, emphysema or asthma, stay inside and avoid unnecessary exposure to the ash.
- If you have children, know your school's emergency plan and have indoor games and activities ready.

What to do if volcanic ash is falling

- Don't panic - stay calm.
- Stay indoors.
- If outside, seek shelter (e.g. car or building).
- Use a mask, handkerchief or cloth over your nose and mouth.
- If warning is given before ashfall starts, go home from work if authorized.
- If at work when ashfall starts, stay indoors until the ash has settled.
- Do not tie up phone lines with non-emergency calls.
- Listen to your local radio for information on the eruption and cleanup plans.
- Do not wear contact lenses as these will result in corneal abrasion.