

Assessment of Volcanic Threat and Monitoring Capabilities USGS Open-File Report 2005-1164

USGS Volcano Hazards Program Website

<http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/>

USGS
science for a changing world

USGS Home
Contact USGS
Search USGS

Volcano Hazards Program Home About Us Contact Us

ACTIVITY LEARN IMAGES HAZARDS PUBLICATIONS OBSERVATORIES

U.S. Volcanoes and Current Activity Alerts

Activity Alerts: [Volcano Observatory Notices for Aviation \(VONA\)](#) | [Information Releases](#)
Zoom to Region: [Alaska](#) | [Hawaii](#) | [Mariana Islands](#) | [CA-NV](#) | [WA-OR](#) | [ID-WY](#) | [UT-CO-AZ-NM](#) | [U.S. Volcanoes](#)
Volcano Status: Elevated | Normal | Unassigned

Ground-based Volcano Alert Levels: Unassigned, Normal, Advisory, Watch, Warning
Aviation Color Codes: Green, Yellow, Orange, Red

Map Satellite Hybrid

Imagery ©2012 TerraMetrics, Map data ©2012 Google, INEGI - Terms of Use

News

Mount St. Helens 32nd Eruption Anniversary

May 18, 2012 marks the 32nd anniversary of Mount St. Helens' catastrophic eruption, the first volcanic eruption in the conterminous United States since the 1915 eruption of California's Lassen Peak. [View archive photos of Mount St. Helens.](#) Read a [summary of events.](#) Learn about the [1980 eruptions.](#) Download a 2012 [panorama](#) of Mount St. Helens, and [modern photos](#) of the volcano and

USGS California Volcano Observatory Website

<http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/calvo>

USGS
science for a changing world

USGS HOME
Contact USGS

Search VHP

Volcano Hazards Program

Find a California Volcano

About Observatories Activity Education Publications

California Volcano Observatory (CalVO)

Hazards Assessments | Activity Updates | Monitoring | Multimedia | About CalVO

Map Satellite

Monthly Update
Sunday, May 06, 2012 2:38 PM PDT
Current Volcano Alert Level: **NORMAL**
Current Aviation Color Code: **GREEN**

Lassen Volcanic Center

USGS

California Volcano Observatory's mission
As a part of the U.S. Geological Survey's Volcano Hazards Program, the California Volcano Observatory aims to advance scientific understanding of volcanic processes and lessen the harmful impacts of volcanic activity in the volcanically active areas of California and Nevada.

NEWS (archive)

Young Volcanoes in California & Nevada¹

High to Very High Threat Potential¹

- [Clear Lake Volcanic Field](#)
- [Lassen Volcanic Center](#)
- [Long Valley Caldera](#)
- [Medicine Lake](#)
- [Mono-Inyo Chain](#)
- [Mount Shasta](#)
- [Salton Buttes](#)

May 22 marks Lassen Peak's 97th eruption anniversary
May 22, 2012
On May 22, 1915 an explosive volcanic eruption occurred at Lassen Peak, California. It was the most powerful single explosion from the series of eruptions that lasted from 1914-1917. It generated a high eruption column, pyroclastic flows, and lahars. Lassen Volcanic Center is still active today and the USGS California Volcano Observatory monitors its activity daily. For more information about this eruption, please [read our fact sheet](#) that details the events.

USGS

Information about Volcanic Ash

<http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/ash>

VOLCANIC ASH

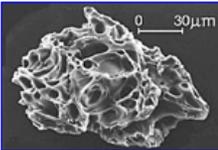
...WHAT IT CAN DO AND HOW TO PREVENT DAMAGE

[Partners](#)
[USGS Volcano Hazards Program Site](#)

[Agriculture](#) | [Buildings](#) | [Communication](#) | [Health](#) | [Power Supply](#) | [Transportation](#) | [Water Supply](#) | [Waste Water](#) | [Actions](#) | [Clean-up](#)

Click a category above for effects of ash and how to reduce its impacts

What is Volcanic Ash?



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.

[Ash properties & ash distribution](#)

What is it like during an ash fall?



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

[Images & descriptions of ash fall](#)

Guidance for homes, businesses, & communities



Taking action before, during, and after an ash fall can prevent or reduce many of the damaging effects of ash. Removing ash requires disposal sites and coordination among individuals and households, community organizations, and businesses.

[Actions to take](#) | [Ash clean-up](#)

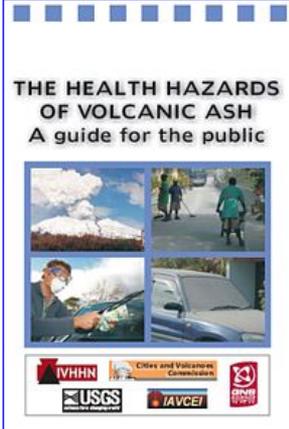
[Managing ash fall in Yakima, Washington, from the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens: Overview by Dick Zais, City Manager](#)

References and Web Links

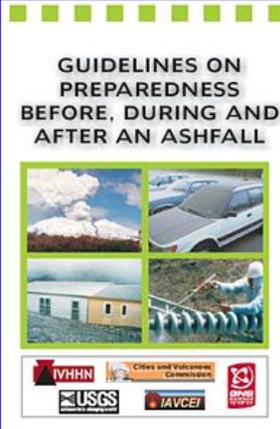
- [References used for this Web site](#)
- [International Volcanic Health Hazard Network](#) (IVHHN)
- [Weekly Volcanic Activity Reports](#) (world wide preliminary)

Volcanic ash brochures

Two ash fall hazards pamphlets published by the International Volcanic Health Hazard Network (IVHHN) are available on the [IVHHN Pamphlets](#) webpage.



THE HEALTH HAZARDS OF VOLCANIC ASH
A guide for the public



GUIDELINES ON PREPAREDNESS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER AN ASHFALL

Volcanic gases and aerosols



Information relating to the health hazards of gases and aerosols typically emitted during volcanic activity are also available from the International Volcanic Health Hazard Network (IVHHN). See [introduction to volcanic gases](#) and [guidelines](#) based on international urban and industrial pollution studies.