

ASH FALL TERMS AND PUBLIC WARNING MESSAGES DURING THE ONGOING ERUPTION OF REDOUBT VOLCANO

The National Weather Service and AVO have developed the following terminology to describe expected ash fall events. Depending on the amount of ash expected, the National Weather Service will issue a different type of message. All National Weather Service messages are broadcast over NOAA Weather Radio, shared immediately with local media, and are available on the internet at this address:

<http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov/volcano.php>

TERM	EXPECTED ACCUMULATION OR THICKNESS	NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WARNING MESSAGE
Trace or Dusting	< 1/32 inch Or <0.8 millimeters	Special Weather Statement
Minor	1/32 – 1/4 inch Or 0.8 – 6.4 millimeters	Ashfall Advisory Marine Weather Statement

Accurate forecasts of the amount of ash expected to fall in a given area are difficult to produce. Ash fall amounts depend on the character of the eruption (duration, cloud height, grain size distribution, water content) and the prevailing winds, all factors that can change rapidly and are difficult to measure accurately.

The National Weather Service and AVO work together after an eruptive event to refine where ash is expected. We integrate information from wind forecasts, radar imaging of the plume, and public observations of ash cloud motion and ash fall to update warning messages. The public should be prepared to receive updated ash fall information as conditions change and more information becomes available.

AVO and NWS appreciate reports from the public about ash fall events as these help us improve our forecasting procedures and document each eruptive event.

Please see links provided on this web site and from other sources to assist you with information regarding the impacts of ash fall and how best to prepare.