

# 火山灰 Volcanic Ash

As of 25 November 2014, small eruptions were reported at the Mt. Aso Nakadake first crater, the crater has been continuously active and emitted large amount of volcanic ash.

**Learn more about volcanic ash, its character and its effect.**



Eruptions of Aso Nakadake crater at 4pm on 26 November 2014

## What is volcanic ash ?

Volcanic ash is part of ejecta and particles of less than 2mm diameter.

It is **hard** fine particles and composed of fragmented magma (volcanic glass or crystal of mineral) or old volcanic rocks sit near the crater floor or magma path. Therefore special caution and care for the ash is recommended. It is differed from dust and ash from burnings.

Eruption is defined as phenomena emitting volcanic gas, lava or solid materials (volcanic ash and lapilli etc.) from crater to the outside. It can be calm or explosive. As Nakadake crater become active, it tends to emit large amount of volcanic ash. (Called ash eruptions) Although explosive eruptions are not likely to occur, ashfall affect frequently on health or agricultural products. The recent eruptions of November 2014 has emitted large amount of volcanic ash after an absence of nearly 20 years.

## What happens if volcanic ash is inhaled?

Inhale little amount volcanic ash may affect less on health for healthy individuals, however it may affect severe with high exposure.

Therefore during ashfall, recommend to stay indoors or wear protecting masks on. Covering mouth and nose by handkerchief or clothes are effective alternatively. For those who have bronchial or lung disease, please take special caution.

## **Eye symptoms**

Volcanic ash is fine sharp particle. Rinse thoroughly without rubbing. Recommend to wear glasses than contact lenses.

## **Caution to electric devices**

Fine particles of volcanic ash may lead to system failure on electric devices. During ash falls, recommend to cover the delicate devices with plastic tightly.

## **Driving Conditions**

Volcanic ash is hard and sharp particles, therefore permanent scratches on cars may be caused by brushing or rubbing. Remove ash by flushing with water before your regular cleaning. For ash on the windshield, suggest flushing with washer fluid before turning on windshield wiper. Ash on roads may result in slippery surface. Drive carefully during such poor road conditions.

## **Ash Deposits**

Heavy weight of ash deposits may cause crushing rooftop especially when rain falls. The deposits also result in clogging drainage. Dry ash is likely to rolling up to the air, damping ash is easier to clean.

## **Ash on vegetables**

Vegetables which ash is covered can be edible by rinsing thoroughly with fresh water.

## **Rainfall after ashfall**

Huge amount of rainfall after ashfall may lead to debris flow. When heavy rain, stay away from mountain stream which ashfall is likely to occur at its upstream site.

## **How far is your home away from the crater?**

Be aware of distance of your home, workplace, tourist facilities and schools from the crater.

Mind wind direction as ash falls off the wind.

It is important to know character and condition of own regional area. Read carefully hazard documents provided by local municipalities.