

USGS AshFall Reporting Database
OMB Control Number 1028-0106

Kristi L Wallace, U.S. Geological Survey/Alaska Volcano
Observatory, Anchorage, AK/USA/email:
kwallace@usgs.gov, phone: 907-786-7109

SCREEN SHOTS AND FORMS THE PUBLIC WILL SEE:

The screenshot shows the Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) website interface. At the top left is the AVO logo, which includes the text "Alaska Volcano Observatory" and "USGS - UAF/IGI - ADSCS". To the right of the logo is the site title "Alaska Volcano Observatory" and a search bar with the text "Site Map | FAQ |" and a "Search" button. Below the title is a navigation menu with the following items: "Home", "About AVO", "Current Volcanic Activity", "Volcano Information", "Library", "Images", and "Searches".

Below the navigation menu, a breadcrumb trail reads: "You are here: Home > Submit ashfall report".

The main content area begins with the heading "IS ASH FALLING?". Below this is a section titled "ARE YOU EXPERIENCING ASHFALL?". The text in this section reads: "We are interested in both YES and NO answers! Reports of ash fall are important to us; we use your observations to assess the character and size of an eruption plume. We report these data to the National Weather Service so they can keep their Ashfall Advisories current. Additionally, reports of NO ashfall during an eruption with expected ashfall are also important to us. Thank you for your participation in volcano science!". A link for "Ash collection instructions" is provided.

The next section is titled "WHEN DID YOU MAKE THIS OBSERVATION?". It contains three input fields: "yyyy-mm-dd:" with the value "2016-02-03", "24hr hh:mm:" with the value "10:47:00", and "Time zone:". Below these fields is a progress indicator: "Step 1 of 4 :: Continue =>".

At the bottom of the form, there is a footer section containing the following information: "OMB Control Number: 1028-0106", "Expiration Date: May 31, 2016", and a "PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Public burden for reviewing these instructions is estimated to average 3.5 minutes per response. Comments regarding this collection of information should be directed to the Bureau Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 807, Reston, VA 20192, or call 703-648-5565."

The very bottom of the page features a dark footer bar with the following links: "Contact AVO", "Privacy", "Accessibility", "Information Quality", and "FOIA".

1st form public will see

FROM WHERE ARE YOU MAKING THIS OBSERVATION?

Click your location on this map and the latitude and longitude will be filled in for you.
 Or, fill out the appropriate areas on the right column. →

Address:

City:

Country: -- Choose a country -- ▾

Postal Code:

GPS Location, map location, general location, whatever you can provide -- more detail is better:

Latitude/Longitude derived from placemark on map:

← Go back :: Step 2 of 4 ::

2nd form public will see

WAS ASH PRESENT IN THIS OBSERVATION

If ash was present, click this checkbox →

← Go back :: Step 3 of 4 ::

3rd form public will see and if they do not see ash they will press continue and go to slide 7 or contact information

WAS ASH PRESENT IN THIS OBSERVATION

If ash was present, click this checkbox →

Please report in local time, using 24-hr (military time) numbers, hh:mm:ss

When did the ash start falling?

When did the ash stop falling?

If you measured the thickness of the ash layer, click this checkbox →

How thick was the ash layer?

Any comments on your measurement?

- **trace:** < 1/32 inch (0.8 mm)
- **minor:** 1/32 - 1/4 inch (0.8 - 6.4 mm)
- **substantial:** 1/4 - 1 inch (6.4 - 25.5 mm)
- **heavy:** 1 - 4 inches (25.5 to 100 mm)

What was the weather like? Any comments on the weather?

- Windy
- Snowy
- Rainy
- Calm

If you took a sample of the ash, click this checkbox →

← [Go back](#) :: Step 3 of 4 :: [Continue](#) →

4th form public will see if they are reporting on “yes” ash

WAS ASH PRESENT IN THIS OBSERVATION

If ash was present, click this checkbox →

Please report in local time, using 24-hr (military time) numbers, hh:mm:ss

When did the ash start falling?

When did the ash stop falling?

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What was the weather like? Any comments on the weather?

- Windy
- Snowy
- Rainy
- Calm

If you took a sample of the ash, click this checkbox →

What type of sample did you collect?

Any comments on the sample?

- **MPUA:** Measured area sample ([more info ...](#))
- **bulk:** bulk sample ([more info ...](#))
- **time_series:** samples collected over a period of time([more info ...](#))
- **multiple:** multiple samples collected

← Go back :: Step 3 of 4 :: Continue →

5th form public will see if they are reporting on “yes” ash and they have collected a sample

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

****No personally identifiable information will be distributed; all personally identifiable information will be used internally by the Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) and National Weather Service (NWS). AVO scientists may use some of the information that you enter in qualitative description fields in publications; you would be identified as "an observer" and your location given in general terms. Parts of some first-person accounts may be reproduced as quotations in AVO publications. Location information will only be used to generally show the location of ash fall on maps and by the NWS to update their Ashfall Advisory statements. The AVO and NWS work collaboratively to track ash fall and all personally identifiable data will be kept internal to both agencies and not distributed.****

If you click the checkbox below, an AVO scientist may contact you to ask more in-depth questions about your report.

Can we call you for more information?

[Go back](#) :: Step 4 of 4

6th and final form public will see – this is so we can follow up with observations and collections to verify facts.

Alaska Volcano Observatory Site Map | FAQ | Search

Home About AVO Current Volcanic Activity Volcano Information Library Images Searches

You are here: Home

PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTING AND RETURNING ASH SAMPLES FROM MODERN VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS


We would appreciate your help collecting volcanic ash samples. These samples help us understand the composition, volume, and dispersal pattern of the ash. The area over which ash can fall is large, and ash-fall deposits can be ephemeral. Timely access is often difficult for us. Locals are ideally positioned to collect excellent samples. If you are interested in assisting the Alaska Volcano Observatory, please follow the instructions below. Thank You!

These instructions describe how to collect a sample of volcanic ash from a recent or ongoing volcanic eruption. We would like two types of samples if possible: (1) **measured-area samples** and, (2) **bulk ash samples**. Detailed methods and an information sheet ([datasheet](#)) are provided below or as links within the text.

Download a data collection worksheet: **Download a printable version of ash collection instructions:**

Microsoft Word format	Microsoft Word format
Adobe PDF	Adobe PDF

Ash tutorial video: 22 minutes



[View a 22 minute video on how to collect an ashfall sample](#)

MEASURED-AREA ASH SAMPLE COLLECTION

This type of sampling requires that ash be collected within a specified and measured area. We use this information to calculate ash fall volumes. Measured-area samples can be collected after or during ash fall and both situations are described below. Ideally we would like two measured-area samples collected in different places (i.e front and back of your house) so we can assess how representative each sample is of your area. You may also collect a sample from the snow as well as a sample in a container for comparison (see [container sampling](#) below).

What you need:

- Plastic zip lock bag, heavy-duty, freezer quality works best
- Ruler or measuring tape
- Permanent marking pen to write on plastic bags
- Clean spatula, putty knife, or similar implement
- Container, paper, or tin foil for collection during ash fall (refer to [container collection](#) below)
- [Datasheet](#) (download and print)

Procedure for Collecting Ash Samples *After* Ash Fall

If ash has fallen on clean snow.

1. Select an area in an open space where ash has directly fallen away from trees or other obstructions or if you know an ash cloud is coming your way and you plan to collect it from snow, be sure the snow is clean. If the snow surface is old and dirty, scrape a ~3 x 3 foot area before ash begins to fall.
2. Measure and trace out a square (preferably at least 12 x 12 in.) on the deposit or snow with the edge of a knife or tool.
3. Label your sample bag with a unique sample number. We typically use the year, personal initials, and a number (06KW-1) but you can label however you like as long as the number is unique (no two are the same).
4. Carefully remove the ash within the square and some of the underlying snow as shown in [figure 1](#).
5. Place the ash and snow from the square into a plastic zip loc bag.
6. Make a thickness measurement. Try to measure the thickness to the nearest 1/16th of an inch or to the nearest half millimeter. The more accurate you are the better the volume calculation will be!
7. Record [sample data](#) on the [datasheet](#).
8. Bring the bag(s) into a warm place so that the snow will melt. Placing the bag in a pot will keep it from tipping over as the snow melts. Let the ash settle out and then pour off as much water as you can without losing any ash. This may take a couple of tries, letting the ash resettle each time. Leave the bag open to allow the sample to dry a bit for a day or so (doesn't need to be totally dry, just dry enough to ship). Reseal and double bag the sample and return to AVO at the address below.
9. If you have a camera, we would appreciate photos of the ash sampling location. Please send them to us with your ash sample.

Webpage with instructions on making collections, the public can click on this from the AshFall Report Database to see what we are asking for in specific. Instructions for ashfall collection and datasheet included as a separate document.