

When Mt. Redoubt erupts: How to handle volcanic ash when you're outside

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Yes, [Mt. Redoubt](#) (also known as Redoubt volcano) is primed to erupt and [according to the experts](#) it may well follow through on that threat. But that doesn't mean that Anchorage residents are putting their lives on hold.

Since there may be little or no warning of ashfall--*if* Redoubt erupts and *if* winds blow an ash cloud in our direction--some concerned residents are stocking up on protective supplies. The same [protective measures recommended for general purposes](#) may be of use to you if ash falls when you're playing outside. Some things you might choose to stow in your pack and carry along until the volcanic unrest subsides include:



What Mt. Redoubt volcano is NOT doing... so far. AP Photo/Al Grillo

- Eye protection. Sunglasses won't cut it; think ski, snowboard or even swimming goggles that seal your eyes in completely.
- Breathing mask. Make sure it says N95 on the box, or the mask itself. You could also substitute a wet piece of cloth (like a bandana or light shirt) over your nose and mouth in a pinch.
- Glasses. Wearing contact lenses during ashfall increases your risk of corneal abrasion. Wearing glasses instead (with ski goggles over them) may help reduce this risk. Even if you don't have glasses, consider bringing along a contact case and fluid for flushing your contacts out and storing them if necessary.

The best advice of all, of course, is to get inside out of the ash as soon as you can. This level of volcanic unrest at Mt. Redoubt is a rare event, so it does merit our attention. But it's also not the end of the world; Pompeii we are not. So don't forget to get out there and play!