

# Redoubt Volcano erupts back into life Jan. 2

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Redoubt Volcano erupted again last week, and this time the eruption was bigger and more dramatic than its first series of explosions last month.

Redoubt Volcano came back to life on Dec. 14 after being at rest for more than 20 years.

During December, the volcano spewed out thick clouds of ash which halted most flights in and out of Anchorage and other areas of the state. The volcano left many rural residents

short of supplies, such as food, and the ash even put a stop to the state's mail service.

It wasn't that Anchorage or other communities got dumped on with the volcanic ash, but rather, the high plumes of ash drifting around in the atmosphere can literally put a stop to an aircraft's engine. And the ash did do that. It completely stopped all the engine power on a Boeing 747 filled with passengers. The aircraft fell more than two miles toward the earth before pilots regained engine power.

Geologists practically predicted this

most recent eruption — Jan. 2 — after monitoring nearly constant seismic activity in and around the volcano.

Robert McGimsey, a spokesman from the Alaska Volcano Observatory in Anchorage, said his agency put out a volcano eruption warning within 24 hours from when Redoubt erupted.

McGimsey said after that eruption the volcano has just been letting out steam and he's not sure what to expect next.

A specially equipped research aircraft which could help determine the content and movement of ash and

steam clouds arrived in Anchorage last week, according to Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska.

The equipment is called Lidar technology, and the aircraft was funded with a \$83,178 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

According to officials at the University of Washington, where the aircraft had been, the Lidar technology and other equipment onboard the aircraft could help the Federal Aviation Administration determine safe air routes for planes flying in Alaska.