

Scientists: It's impossible to say what will be next

by **Holly F. Hallam**

Tundra Times reporter

Redoubt Volcano — still spewing out ash and steam from its recent eruptions — is expected to continue this activity for the next several days or possibly weeks, according to geologists.

John Paskievitch, geologist with the Alaska Volcano Observatory in Anchorage, said the volcano has experienced its fifth episode of eruptions.

"Most recently (Tuesday at 6:30 a.m.) it was an energetic eruption with plums of ash reaching 30,000 feet," Paskievitch said.

But earlier, he said, the ash reach-

continued on page twelve

• Impossible to predict

continued from page one

ed heights much higher than this.

Redoubt Volcano's summit reaches 10,197 feet and is located in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, about 115 miles southwest of Anchorage.

Paskievitch gave a brief description of what the volcano has been doing in recent history. He said between the years 1965-1968 there was quite a bit of steam, ash and some lava activity at the volcano.

In 1933 the volcano spewed steam and ash and a small amount of lava.

In its 1918 eruption it was about the same as 1933.

And in 1902 Redoubt blew out steam and had ash that was recorded nearly 124 miles away.

Other mountains which have a

volcanic history which are located near Redoubt are Mount Spurr, Mount Iliamna and Mount Augustine. Augustine last erupted in 1986.

Pete Wuerpel, communications coordinator for the Alaska Division of Emergency Services in Anchorage, said his agency's job of warning people about ash has been very difficult.

He said that it's been virtually impossible to warn all the communities that have been hit by ash thus far as to how much ash they should expect or just when it will hit.

"When you put out advisories you can't pick out a certain spot and say, 'You're going to get a little and you're going to get a lot,' " he said about the amount of ash fall.

Wuerpel said with changing winds and the unpredictable eruption times of Redoubt, predicting what will happen next is impossible.