

Mount Redoubt starts erupting

Mount Redoubt, a volcano just across Cook Inlet from Soldotna, erupted Thursday at 10:13 a.m. and by press time Friday again at 1:48, 3:48 and 10:24 a.m., according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Officials said more eruptions could follow.

So far, spokesmen for the Alaska Division of Emergency Services said they are not issuing health warnings other than to tell people directly in the path of the dust clouds to avoid breathing the dust by remaining indoors.

And individuals and offices with computers are advised to cover up their equipment.

Rural Alaskans who might be in the path of the dust clouds are advised to tune in to their local emergency broadcast station.

Mike Webb, emergency services planner, said ash was spewed up to nearly 35,000 feet with the first eruption Thursday and that the cloud moved in an east-northeast direction, skirting Anchorage.

Webb said Wasilla experienced slight ash fall, with heavier concentrations in Big Lake and Willow.

Mount Redoubt last erupted during a three-year period from 1965 to 1968, with the most activity in 1966, according to Tom Miller of the USGS.