

# VOLCANIC ASH INFORMATION 2

Prepared by Oregon State University's Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service. For more information, consult the OSU Extension Service in your county or the nearest branch Agricultural Experiment Station.

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## PROTECTIVE FACE MASKS

The majority of face masks available to the public are effective for the filtration of large particles present in volcanic ash and may be purchased in most drug stores. Even a homemade two-layer cotton mask would have some effect on filtration of the larger particles. The particles of major concern, however, are those that are very small. Filtration of the smaller particles requires a special type of mask, which is recommended to be worn by people working in high ash environments and by people with pre-existing lung disease. These masks are rated by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, and are referred to as "NIOSH approved," which may be printed on the container, or, the masks may carry a coded number starting with "TC-21C," followed by another two or three digit number. The NIOSH-approved masks can be purchased in industrial safety appliance stores, usually listed in the telephone directory yellow pages under "Safety."

The following is a partial list of masks with the appropriate NIOSH approval.

•Single-Use Approved Face Mask, (up to \$3.00 each. Throw away when they become difficult to breath through, or structure of the mask is destroyed).

<u>Manufacturers</u>	<u>Number</u>
3M	6983
3M	8710
3M	9900
3M	9910
3M	9920
American Optical (AO)	R1050
Binks	40-150
Norton	7170

<u>Manufacturers</u>	<u>Number</u>
Willson	1400
Willson	1410

•NIOSH-Approved Masks for Multiple Use, (\$8.00 and up for holder and \$0.25 to \$1.00 each for replaceable filter elements. Elements need be replaced only when they become difficult to beathe through).

<u>Manufacturers</u>	<u>Number</u>
American Optical (AO)	R2090N
American Optical (AO)	R4G30
American Optical (AO)	R5030
American Optical (AO)	R6030
MSA Dust FO	66
MSA Dust FO	77
MSA Dust FO	88
MSA Comfo II	459440
Willson	560
Willson	1210
Willson	1211
Willson	1212

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