



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Executive Department

EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION

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MAY 19 1980

Governor Atiyeh

MT. ST. HELENS REPORT

MAY 19, 1980

THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION STAFF IS ON STANDY-BY AS ARE THE OTHER MAJOR STATE AGENCIES. STAFF HAS BEEN BRIEFED AS TO SITUATION.

IN WATCHING THE STATE OF WASHINGTON ACTIVITY THE MAJOR AREAS OF CONCERN WOULD BE TRAFFIC CONTROL, POSSIBLE WATER PROBLEMS, PEOPLE WITH RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS AND OBVIOUSLY, POLLUTION.

REPORTS TAKEN FROM AGENCIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

OREGON STATE POLICE - SUPERINTENDENT WILLIAMS:

PERSONNEL FROM ASTORIA TO BAKER HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO OBTAIN SURGICAL TYPE MASKS, ALSO TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE EQUIPPED WITH GAS MASKS - AT PRESENT THEY ARE INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND WORKING CLOSELY WITH WASHINGTON STATE PATROL. THEY HAVE RELIEVED THE WASHINGTON STATE PATROL OF TRAFFIC CONTROL ON THE INTERSTATE BRIDGE AT VANCOUVER. THEY HAVE ALERTED ALL STATIONS TO REPORT ANY FINDINGS OF FALLOUT.

STATE HEALTH DIVISION - DR. BADER:

THEIR TWO CONCERNS ARE AIR AND WATER. THEY WILL FOLLOW NORMAL AIR QUALITY STANDARDS AND WARNINGS. THEY STATE WATER IS NOT TOO GREAT A PROBLEM AS WATER DISTRICTS CAN ADD CHEMICALS TO SUPPLIES AND REDUCE ACIDITY. REPORTS FROM EASTERN WASHINGTON DO NOT SHOW AN INCREASE IN RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS REPORTED TO HOSPITALS. PEOPLE WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO STAY INDOORS AND PEOPLE WITH BREATHING PROBLEMS WILL BE ASKED TO EVACUATE.

HIGHWAY DIVISION - L.W. RULIEN:

THEY ARE IN CONTACT WITH WASHINGTON HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT. AT THE PRESENT, THEY INTEND TO USE STATE OF WASHINGTON'S TECHNIQUES IN REMOVAL. THEY ARE PREPARED TO CLOSE AND/OR SIGN ROADS AND CLEAR THE ASH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THEY ARE WORKING ON A LIST OF "DO'S" AND "DON'TS" BASED ON ACTIONS IN YAKIMA.

DEQ - DR. WARREN WESTGARTH:

WILL MONITOR FOR AIR QUALITY AND ISSUE ADVISORIES AS NECESSARY, MONITOR STREAMS AND WATER SUPPLIES ALONG WITH EPA, MONITOR SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS AND RECOMMEND POSSIBLE SHUTDOWN, ISSUE INFORMATION ON PROTECTION OF LIVESTOCK AND FOOD SUPPLIES AND WORK TO PROTECT ALL WATER SUPPLIES.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE - JIM WAKEFIELD - 3:30 P.M.:

THE VOLCANIC ACTIVITY HAS SUBSIDED TODAY AND WHILE SMOKE IS VISIBLE FROM THE PORTLAND AREA, THE ASH FROM THE MOUNTAIN IS NOT HEAVY ENOUGH TO BE DETECTED ON PORTLAND RADAR. YESTERDAY THE PORTLAND RADAR SHOWED PLUMES TO 50,000 FEET AT 9:00 A.M. AND TO 63,000 FEET JUST BEFORE 5:00 P.M. (5-18) A LIGHT ASH WHICH HAS BEEN DESCRIBED TO ME AS MUCH LIKE FOG, HAS FALLEN IN THE AREA NEAR YAKIMA TODAY BUT ONLY ABOUT HALF-INCH IS REPORTED AT THE YAKIMA AIRPORT.

SURFACE WINDS OF 10-15 MPH ARE STIRRING UP THE ASH IN MANY AREAS OF EASTERN WASHINGTON HOWEVER, THIS ASH IS NOT COMING DIRECTLY FROM THE MOUNTAIN.

THE WINDS ALOFT FROM 10-18 THOUSAND FEET ARE GENERALLY WEST TO SOUTHWEST AT PRESENT. WINDS AT HIGHER ELEVATIONS ARE WESTERLY. WINDS AT ALL UPPER LEVELS WILL BECOME A LITTLE MORE SOUTHWEST BY TUESDAY. THIS MEANS THAT ANY FALLOUT FROM MOUNT ST. HELENS WILL NOT REACH AREAS IN OREGON ON TUESDAY AND PROBABLY NOT THROUGH THE REMAINDER OF THE WEEK. GENERALY WEATHER PATTERN FOR OREGON IS FOR SOME INCREASE IN CLOUDINESS WITH A THREAT OF RAIN ON THE COAST AND NORTH INTERIOR BY WEDNESDAY.

STATE OF WASHINGTON EMERGENCY SERVICES - 3:15 P.M.:

THEY ARE FINDING THAT THE FURTHER AWAY FROM THE MOUNTAIN THE MORE ACIDIC THE ASH. THE MOUNTAIN IS GENERATING WHAT THEY CALL " PUFFS " CARRYING ADDITIONAL DEBRIS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE. IN ADDITION TO THE NEW VENT NEXT TO HIGHWAY #504, THERE IS ANOTHER NEW VENT APPROXIMATELY 10 MILES N.E. OF THE MOUNTAIN. (NORTH OF SPIRIT LAKE). IT IS TRUE THAT SPIRIT LAKE HAS ALL BUT DISAPPEARED - FILLED WITH GARBAGE AND DEBRIS. THERE ARE NO DOLLAR FIGURES AVAILABLE YET, HOWEVER THEY ARE BEGINNING TO GET AN IDEA OF THE DEVASTATION IN EASTERN WASHINGTON. HAVE FOUND IT IS NOT A GOOD IDEA TO WASH THE ASH DOWN WITH WATER AS IT BECOMES A THICK AND GOOEY MESS.

OFFICIAL REQUEST RECEIVED FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON EMERGENCY SERVICES, FOR TWO OREGON EMERGENCY SERVICES STAFF TO ASSIST THEM AT THE STATE EOC IN OLYMPIA.