

## KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### Instructional Services

Kari Dendurent, Assistant Superintendent

148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7553

Phone (907) 714-8858 Fax (907) 262-5867

Email: kdendurent@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

March 20, 2024

Dear KPBSD Parents and Guardians,

As part of our commitment to student safety, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD) has established a comprehensive response plan in the event of a volcanic eruption from Mt. Spurr. While the estimated response time remains unknown, we want to ensure you are informed about the potential impacts and the measures we will take to protect students and staff.

#### **Potential Volcanic Hazards**

Depending on the eruption type and wind conditions, the following volcanic hazards may affect our district:

- Ash Fallout: May reach KPBSD within 30 minutes or less.
- Air Quality Concerns: Ash density and wind patterns influence air quality.

#### Scenario I: School in Session

In the event of an eruption while school is in session, KPBSD will take the following steps:

- **Air System Management**: Borough Maintenance will shut down air handlers immediately.
- School Operations: District leadership will determine school status (closure, delay, early release, or hold-in-place) in coordination with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM).
- Air Quality Monitoring: Updates from NOAA and AirNow.gov will guide decisions.
- Facility & Equipment Protection: Schools will restrict physical activities, cancel outdoor events, distribute masks, and ensure windows and doors remain closed.
- Student Safety Measures: Before dismissal, masks will be distributed, and necessary precautions will be taken to limit exposure.

## Scenario II: School Not in Session

If an eruption occurs outside school hours, KPBSD will:

Shut down air handlers.

- Determine school closure or delay status in coordination with OEM.
- Monitor air quality for further decision-making.

# **Transportation Plan**

First Student has implemented the following preparedness measures:

- **Bus Air Filtration**: Additional air filters have been stocked, and protective coverings sourced for air intake vents.
- **Driver Protocols**: Drivers are trained to monitor air filter restrictions and report issues.
- Emergency Response: In the unlikely event, bus cannot complete its route, standard emergency response protocols will be followed to ensure student safety. A plan for pick up at a designated place may include at the school site or a nearby area large enough for a bus and parent vehicles.

### What Parents Can Do

- Stay informed through KPBSD communications and emergency alerts.
- Ensure your child understands safety protocols.
- Provide your child with a personal face mask if possible.

Our top priority is the safety and well-being of our students and staff. We appreciate your cooperation and preparedness as we navigate this potential natural event together.

For further updates, please monitor district communications and visit our website for emergency preparedness information.

Sincerely,

Kari Dendurent

Assistant Superintendent

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District