AVO/USGS Volcanic Activity Notice

Volcano: **Shishaldin** (VNUM #311360)

Current Volcano Alert Level: WATCH
Current Aviation Color Code: ORANGE

Issued: Friday, July 14, 2023, 11:34 AM AKDT
Source: Alaska Volcano Observatory
Notice Number: 2023/A1050
Location: N 54 deg 45 min W 163 deg 58 min
Elevation: 9373 ft (2857 m)
Area: Aleutians

Volcanic Activity Summary:

A significant explosion occurred at 1:09 am AKDT (9:09 UTC) this morning and produced an ash cloud that initially reached 30,000 to 40,000 ft (9–12 km) above sea level and drifted south over the Pacific Ocean. A second smaller explosion occurred at 7:10 am AKDT (15:10 UTC) and reached ~15,000 ft (4.5 km) above sea level. The National Weather Service issued a SIGMET for these events and suggested a maximum cloud height of 25,000 ft (7.6 km) above sea level for the drifting ash cloud. Web camera images and pilot reports show continued low-level ash emissions this morning including a small ash cloud near the summit around 10:30 am AKDT (18:30 UTC).

Eruptions from Shishaldin have produced minor and on occasion significant ash clouds in the past. These can occur with little warning. Shishaldin is monitored by local seismic and infrasound sensors, web cameras, and a telemetered geodetic network. The local monitoring network is partially impaired, therefore AVO is also using nearby geophysical networks, satellite data and regional infrasound and lighting data to detect activity. AVO will continue to closely monitor unrest at Shishaldin Volcano.

Hazard Analysis:
[Ash cloud] drifting ash clouds up to 15,000 feet above sea level
[Ashfall] trace ashfall possible downwind of the volcano.

Remarks:

Shishaldin Volcano, located near the center of Unimak Island in the eastern Aleutian Islands, is a spectacular symmetric cone with a base diameter of approximately 16 km (10 mi). A 200-m-wide (660 ft) funnel-shaped summit crater typically emits a steam plume and occasional small amounts of ash. Shishaldin is one of the most active volcanoes in the Aleutian volcanic arc, with

at least 54 episodes of unrest including over 26 confirmed eruptions since 1824. Most eruptions are relatively small, although the April-May 1999 event generated an ash column that reached 45,000 ft above sea level.

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The Alaska Volcano Observatory is a cooperative program of the U.S. Geological Survey, the University of Alaska Fairbanks Geophysical Institute, and the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys.