

Ash Collection System

USGS, Cascades Volcano Observatory

A volcanic ash collection system is designed to capture ash emitted by the volcano during an eruption. The collected ash is manually retrieved by staff from CVO when the sites are accessible and is then analyzed at CVO to determine the chemical composition of the ash, as well as to see how the ash composition changes during the course of an eruption.

A volcanic ash collection station consists of two standard 5 gallon white buckets attached to a 6 foot tall green light duty steel fence post that is set in to the ground by hand to a depth of two feet.

Currently, there are no Ash Collection Systems in place within the Mount Saint Helens National Monument or on USFS land adjacent to the Monument. These monitoring studies are temporary in nature and would be deployed in the event that the volcano begins to emit ash.



Photograph showing a typical Ash Collection Bucket system used on Mt. St. Helens during the 2004 to 2008 eruptive activity.