

### CAN VOLCANIC ASH POISON WATER SUPPLIES?

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It has been estimated that 9% of the world's population lives within 100 km of a historically active volcano (Horwell and Baxter 2006). The most lethal volcanic hazards are lahars (volcanic mudflows) and pyroclastic flows and surges (Witham 2005). However, of all eruptive hazards, volcanic ash can affect the most people because of the large areas that can be covered by ashfall. Although ashfalls rarely endanger human life directly, they are a major cause of evacuation of residents because they can cause roof collapse as well as