

Mexico volcano covers towns in ash

May 8 2013



A street vendor passes a car covered in a layer of ash from the Popocatepetl volcano in Puebla, Mexico on May 7, 2013. Mexico's Popocatepetl volcano has spewed ash over several towns in the central state of Puebla, just 55 kilometers (35 miles) southeast of Mexico City, but the country's capital was spared.

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The volcano blew a huge stack of smoke that went 3,200 meters (10,500

feet) skyward late Tuesday, but surrounding residents were not in danger, said Jesus Morales, Puebla's civil protection director.

A three-centimeter (one-inch) thick carpet of ash covered nearby towns, forcing people to wear masks. The National Disaster Prevention Center said Wednesday that ash also fell in the state capital of Puebla.

The 5,452-meter (17,900-foot) high Popocatepetl is Mexico's second highest peak after the Citlaltepctl volcano.

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