federal emergency management agency

MOUNT ST. HELENS TECHNICAL INFORMATION NETWORK

Friday, May 30, 1980

BULLETIN #2b- "Driving and Vehicle Maintenance in Heavy Ash Areas"

The following advice is provided by the U.S.Army Tank-Automotive Research and Development Command from Warren.Michigan and the Washington State Patrol. This advice is based on experience and field tests now being conducted with State Patrol cars in heavy ash/dust areas. The U.S. Department of Transportation concurs with this advice.

- (1) Avoid driving in heavy dust conditions unless absolutely required.

 The more dense the dust, the more urgent the requirement should be for driving.
- (2) When required to drive in dense dust, keep speed down to 35 mph or lower. Do not follow too close to car ahead. Use headlights on low beam
- (3) Change oil often. In very dense dust change at 50-100 mile intervals. Light dust conditions change oil at 500-1000 mile intervals. Lubricate all chassis components at each oil change.
- (4) Clean air filter by backflushing filter paper with compressed air (30 psi). Caution: Blow element from inside (clean side) to outside (dirty side). DO NOT strike filter against anything. Air clean only. If unsure, have a qualified mechanic perform the air filter service.

Inspect filter for dents or torn paper. Clean the inside of the filter and the filter cover with damp cloth before reinstalling filter.

Reinstall filter in housing and tighten on cover very tight, approximately one full turn with pliers after hand tightening. Do not exceed one full turn with pliers or you may damage the system.

(5) DO NOT install hose from carburetor air intake (air cleaner) to