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Volcanoes Calm Down

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Two volcanoes that erupted on the far eastern Kamchatka Peninsula, blanketing a town with dust and spreading ash clouds across the Pacific, have mostly stopped spewing ash and flights are no longer diverted, officials said.

Eurasia's highest active volcano, the Klyuchevskaya Sopka, was pumping out insignificant amounts of dust and the Shiveluch volcano, 70 kilometers northeast, had ceased all activity, the Emergency Situations Ministry reported on its web site Friday.

Schools in the vicinity of the volcanoes remained closed Friday because of ash buildup. The powder had coated the nearby town of Ust-Kamchatsk, reducing visibility to only a few meters and turning buildings ghostly white. ◙

(AP)

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