Master Sheet 5.2d

Eyewitness Account #9:
Name: V. Dergan and R. Reitman
Event witnessed: mudflow
Site location: 40 kilometers (25 miles) NW/on the South Fork Toutle River

Sometime after 9:00 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time, the South Fork Toutle River began rising and quickly rose about a meter (3 feet). The river was slightly muddy and carried numerous logs. About 2-3 minutes after the first logs moved downstream, a railroad bridge moving at about 40 kilometers per hour (25 miles per hour) appeared. Trees were being snapped off. As the bridge went by, large logs behind it rolled up the bank. The mass of thick mud and logs pushed the witnesses and their car off the bank and into the river. They were swept along for about 5 minutes at about 40 to 50 kilometers per hour (25 to 30 miles per hour) in very thick, warm mud. The witnesses jumped from log to log toward shore where the flow was moving more slowly, and waded through warm mud over 5 meters (1.5 feet) deep. The mud continued to rise slowly for a short time. After perhaps 15-30 minutes the mud and logs stopped moving.

Eyewitness Account #10:
Name: B. Nelson and S. Ruff
Event witnessed: tephra fall
Site location: 21 kilometers (13 miles) N/on north bank of Green River

After the blast and a few minutes of clear sky, hot ash began to fall. Again, it became totally dark. This ash seemed to fall vertically. It was "like someone pouring a bag over your head." The extremely heavy ash fall lasted about 15 minutes. The ash fall was so intense that the witnesses had to use their fingers to dig the ash out of their mouths. They put their shirts over their heads in an effort to keep the ash out of their mouths and noses. After 15-20 minutes "stuff started coming out of the sky." They could hear this material hitting trees. One witness was hit on the head by something large enough to raise a lump. During the heavy ash fall, they became cold, sleepy, and nauseous, but did not suffer from headaches. After an hour and a half visibility began to return.