

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Air Quality

SITUATION REPORT

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY

Central Interior AK #2012-21

UNHEALTHY

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: North Pole, Eielson, Fairbanks, and surrounding areas.

TIME/DATE OF UPDATE: Wednesday October 24, 2012, 8:00 AM.

VALID TIME: Valid Wednesday October 24, 2012, 8:00 AM until Thursday October 25 2012, 4:00 PM

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: Thursday October 25 2012, 4:00 PM

ADVISORY: Air Quality for North Pole, Fairbanks and surrounding area. PM2.5 24-hour concentrations at the North Pole monitoring site are currently in the UNHEALTHY category. Current 24 hour concentrations in downtown Fairbanks are MODERATE. The NWS forecasts the high pressure to remain in the area the rest of the week. This weather pattern results in cold air and strong inversions in the morning trapping pollutants at or near the surface. Actual concentrations may vary with improving conditions in the afternoon and worsening conditions in the nighttime and early morning hours.

DEC advises people with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children to avoid prolonged exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged exertion.

PUBLIC IMPACT:

This is an area forecast, and as such is a general forecast for the Fairbanks and North Pole area. Pollution levels will vary depending on precise location, local emission sources, and wind flow patterns. Note that this advisory is based in part on particulate matter readings from the downtown areas of Fairbanks and North Pole and selected other local areas but may not be representative in your area. If you are sensitive to respiratory problems and experience any effects please follow the instructions of your physician.

Residents can take proactive measures to improve air quality by voluntarily reducing wood and coal burning while this air quality advisory is in effect. Residents who need to burn wood should ensure it is seasoned and practice smart burning practices.

State of Alaska Air Quality Control Plan provides the following guidance on wood smoke emission standards: A person may not operate a wood-fired heating device in a manner that causes (1) black smoke; or (2) visible emissions that exceed 50 percent opacity for more than 15 minutes in any one hour in an area for which an air quality advisory is in effect. (Reference: Department of Environmental Conservation, 18 AAC 50 Air Quality Control, Dec 9, 2010)

The following table is the Air Quality Index for Particle Pollution.

AQI level	AQI Category	AQI Cautionary Statements
0-50	Good	None
51-100	Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	People with heart or lung disease, the elderly and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
151-200	Unhealthy	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid prolonged exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged exertion.
201-300	Very Unhealthy	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid any outdoor activity; everyone else should avoid prolonged exertion.
Over 300	Hazardous	Everyone should avoid any outdoor exertion; people with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should remain indoors.

CURRENT OPEN BURN RESTRICTIONS: The Fairbanks North Star Borough prohibits open burning in certain areas during the period from November 1 through the end of February. For information on open burning, please contact the Borough at 459-1312.

For information on this advisory, contact Michael Gravier with the Division of Air Quality at 907-269-7676.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For information on FNSB Air Quality, visit their website at:
<http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>

More information on Fairbanks air quality and ways to improve it are available at the following web sites: http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/anpms/comm/fbks1_pm.htm

For information on PM_{2.5} issues in the Fairbanks area from the Department of Environmental Conservation, Air Quality Division, visit the website at:

http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/anpms/comm/fbks1_pm.htm

NOTIFICATION LIST:

FNSB-Air Quality