



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Planning and Land Use Department

Planning Division

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AIR QUALITY ADVISORY/PRESS RELEASE

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough is issuing an air quality advisory for Matanuska Valley, valid from 12:00 pm, Tuesday, February 4, 2014, until the wind subsides. A shift in the weather pattern is expected late this week as high pressure builds over northern Alaska and the Bering Sea. This will result in very strong northerly to northeasterly winds across the southern Mainland by late Thursday night or Friday.

Through the Matanuska Valley residual snow pack is very low or non-existent. This raises fire weather concerns due to the dryness of the airmass (albeit cold air) coupled with strong winds. Through the Matanuska Valley there is also heightened risk of a prolonged period of blowing dust and silt. Confidence that strong winds will develop is high, but there is still some uncertainty on exactly how strong they will be. Area residents and interested parties are advised that this pattern shift will likely persist well into the next week, with interior southern Alaska remaining largely on the dry side.

Due to increasing winds the air quality in Matanuska Valley may become unhealthy to hazardous. During these times **CHILDREN, THE ELDERLY, AND PERSONS WITH EXISTING HEART OR LUNG DISEASE SHOULD STAY INDOORS AND REDUCE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY. THE GENERAL POPULATION SHOULD AVOID VIGOROUS OUTDOOR ACTIVITY.**

Please call the 24-hour Air Quality Alert System phone number, 352-3878, (352-DUST) for daily information on air quality in the eastern Matanuska Valley. This advisory will expire when the wind subsides, or be updated if conditions change.

If you have any questions, please call the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Planning Division at 861-7833.

Eileen Probasco, Planning Director

Date