

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Air Quality

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY

South Central Alaska #2014-F3

Friday May 23, 2014 – update

No significant change. Smoke will impact the area with variations due to wind flow. Today areas south of the fire will have greater smoke concentrations. Saturday through the weekend, areas north and east of the fire will have greater concentrations.

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: South Central Alaska. Fires near Tyonek and Soldotna are impacting air quality over a large portion of south-central Alaska to include the Mat-Su Valley, Anchorage, the western Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak Island. The Mat-Su and Anchorage air quality offices have issued advisories for those areas. This advisory is for the Western Kenai Peninsula. All these advisories are available on the DEC website.

<http://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Air/airtoolsweb/Advisories>

TIME/DATE OF UPDATE: Friday May 23, 2014 10:00 AM.

VALID TIME: Friday May 23, 2014 10:00 AM.. to Tuesday May 27, 2014 10:00 AM

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: Tuesday May 27, 2014 10:00 AM or earlier if needed.

ADVISORY: Fires near Tyonek and Soldotna are impacting air quality on the Kenai Peninsula. Smoke from these fires has saturated the air over a large portion of South-central Alaska. Main population areas impacted are Kenai, Nikiski, Soldotna, Ninilchik, Kasilof, Seldovia, and Homer. Although a large area of smoke is over Kodiak Island, concentrations are more diffuse in that area. Conditions are expected to continue through the weekend. Air Quality throughout the area will vary between **GOOD** and **VERY UNHEALTHY** depending on wind patterns and fire behavior.

Be aware that areas immediately downwind of any fire will experience **HAZARDOUS** levels of smoke. Generally, worse conditions occur overnight and during the early morning hours, as the atmosphere cools and brings smoke to the surface. During the day, surface heating will mix smoke and carry it upwards, temporarily improving air quality.

SMOKE AND PUBLIC IMPACT: This is an area forecast, and as such is a general forecast for portions of South Central Alaska. Smoke intensity will vary depending on precise location and local wind flow patterns. Smoke concentrations will be such that they could impact public health at times. It is advised that travelers check local weather as smoke conditions may vary considerably from one locality to the next. The most recent weather observations may be found on National Weather Service's homepage at <http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov/obs.php>.

In smoke impacted areas, DEC advises people with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid prolonged exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged

exertion. See the table below for more guidance on the Air Quality Index categories and Cautionary Statements.

The following table contains the cautionary statements for the Air Quality for Particle Pollution.

Air Quality Category	Cautionary Statements
Good	None
Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	People with heart or lung disease, the elderly and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
Unhealthy	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid prolonged exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged exertion
Very Unhealthy	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid any outdoor activity; everyone else should avoid prolonged exertion
Hazardous	Everyone should avoid any outdoor exertion; people with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should remain indoors

When air quality data is unavailable, the following **Air Quality Smoke Reference Guide** may be used to estimate air quality levels and potential health impacts:

Visibility	Air Quality
10+ miles	Good
6 - 9 miles	Moderate
3 - 5 miles	Unhealthy for sensitive groups
1.5 - 2.5 miles	Unhealthy
0.9 - 1.4 miles	Very Unhealthy
0.8 miles or less	Hazardous

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