

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Air Quality

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY

South Central Alaska #2014-F4

Wednesday May 28, 2014 – update

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: South Central Alaska. The Funny River Fire is impacting air quality over the Kenai Peninsula. The Mat-Su and Anchorage air quality has improved with the onset of rain.

TIME/DATE OF UPDATE: Wednesday May 28, 2014 4:00 PM.

VALID TIME: Wednesday May 28, 2014 4:00 PM to Friday May 30, 2014 4:00 PM

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: Friday May 30, 2014 4:00 PM

ADVISORY: The Funny River fire near Soldotna is impacting air quality on the Kenai Peninsula. Main population areas impacted are Soldotna, Kasilof, Kenai, Nikiski, Sterling, Cooper Landing, and Ninilchik. Air Quality throughout the area will vary between **GOOD** and **VERY UNHEALTHY** depending on wind patterns and fire behavior.

The 24-hour air quality monitor located at the Borough Building in Soldotna showed AQ in the MODERATE category on May 27. On May 26 the air quality was UNHEALTHY.

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. Early morning hour concentrations are higher. 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.