

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

**Division of Air Quality
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY
South Central Alaska #2014-F7
Friday May 30, 2014 – update**

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: South Central Alaska. The Funny River Fire is impacting air quality over a portion of the Kenai Peninsula.

TIME/DATE OF UPDATE: Friday May 30, 2014 1:00 PM.

VALID TIME: Friday May 30, 2014 4:00 PM AM to Monday June 2, 2014 4:00 PM

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: Monday June 2, 2014 4:00 PM or sooner if conditions change significantly.

ADVISORY: The Funny River fire near Soldotna is impacting air quality on the Kenai Peninsula. On May 29 the 24-hours air quality recorded at the Borough Building in Soldotna was in the GOOD category. However, easterly winds are moving the smoke from the fire towards the Kasilof, Soldotna area. Air Quality throughout the area will vary between **GOOD** and **UNHEALTHY** depending on wind patterns and fire behavior.

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.