ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Air Quality
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY
Update Central Interior AK #2015-06
UNHEALTHY

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: North Pole and surrounding area.

TIME/DATE OF UPDATE: Saturday January 17, 2015 7:00 AM.

VALID TIME: Saturday January 17, 2015 7:00 AM to Monday January 19, 2015 4:00 PM.

PROJECTED DURATION OF THE EVENT Saturday January 17, 2015 7:00 AM to Monday January 19, 2015 4:00 PM.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT Monday January 19, 2015 4:00 PM.

ADVISORY: Air Quality advisory for North Pole and surrounding area. $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations in the North Pole area are in the **UNHEALTHY** category. Concentrations in the Fairbanks are in the **MODERATE** category. Colder air has begun to arrive in the area, creating an inversion and trapping pollutants. This is not a strong inversion so conditions may vary to the **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSEITIVE GROUPS** category for hours at a time.

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

PUBLIC IMPACT:
This is an area forecast, and as such is a general forecast for the Fairbanks 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 Fairbanks and North Pole air quality monitoring sites. 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)

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

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

OPEN BURN RESTRICTIONS: The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation prohibits open burning in the Fairbanks PM2.5 non-attainment area whenever there is an air quality advisory in effect for that area (18 ACC 50.065(e)).

For a map of the non-attainment area follow the link below
http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/doc/FNSB_PM2-5_NA_map_jan09.pdf

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