

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
Division of Air Quality**

**SITUATION REPORT**

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY  
Central Interior AK #2010-02**

**LOCATION(S) IMPACTED:** Yukon Flats.

**TIME/DATE OF UPDATE:** Wednesday, June 9, 2010, 3:00 PM.

**VALID TIME:** Valid June 9 at 3:00 PM until June 10 at 10:00 AM.

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** Thursday, June 10, 10:00 AM.

**ADVISORY:** Air Quality in Interior Alaska is currently affected by several fires burning across the central portion of the state. Winds in the region will be light, so local wind flow patterns will affect smoke dispersion and the area for the greatest impact from these fires. Communities near these fires will experience periods of smoke and potentially poor air quality conditions throughout the week. For all of these locations, air quality will predominantly be **good** to **moderate**, with periods that are **unhealthy**. Air quality in communities near these fires may become **very unhealthy** at times.

- The Sucker River and Green fires will cause periods of smoke (at times heavy smoke) in Fort Yukon and other areas in the Yukon Flats.

The forecast for much of Interior Alaska is for mostly cloudy skies with isolated thunderstorms. High pressure will keep winds light throughout most of the state. Areas of smoke will likely continue to impact the Interior into early next week.

Keep in mind 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. Alternatively, hot, dry weather may lead to extensive fire activity, dramatically increasing smoke production, and thus causing the worst visibilities to occur in the late afternoon and early evening hours.

**SMOKE AND PUBLIC IMPACT:** This is an area forecast, and as such is a general forecast for portions of Interior 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>.

**CURRENT BURN RESTRICTIONS:** None.

**DEC advises anyone with respiratory illness or heart disease, the elderly, and children to avoid exposure to smoke. All others are cautioned to avoid outdoor activities or physical exertion when conditions reach unhealthy levels, as defined below:**

The following table is the Air Quality Index for Particle Pollution.

Index Values	Levels of Health Concern	Cautionary Statements
0-50	Good	None
51-100	Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	People with heart or lung disease, the elderly and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
151-200	Unhealthy	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid prolonged exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged exertion.
201-300	Very Unhealthy	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid any outdoor activity; everyone else should avoid prolonged exertion.
Over 300	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 the Air Quality in Fairbanks, visit the Fairbanks North Star Borough at <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>.

The Municipality of Anchorage and DEC have launched a real-time Air Quality Information website – <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/aaqm/Default.htm>

For information on Wildfire Smoke from the Department of Health and Social Services, visit their website at <http://www.epi.alaska.gov/eh/wildfire/default.htm>.

For information on Wildfire Smoke from the Department of Environmental Conservation, Air Quality Division, visit the website at <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/smokemain.htm>.

For information on road conditions around Alaska, visit the Road Traveler Information System at <http://511.alaska.gov/>.

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

Follow DEC on twitter: <http://twitter.com/akdec>

## **NOTIFICATION LIST:**

### **Yukon Flats & Uplands**

Fort Yukon

Venetie

Birch Creek

Beaver

Stevens Village

Chalkyitsik

Circle

Central

Twelvemile Summit

Circle Hot Springs

Eagle Summit