

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

SITUATION REPORT

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY
Central Interior AK #2010-01**

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: Upper Kuskokwim Valley, Central Interior.

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

VALID TIME: Valid May 28 at 4:00 PM until June 1 at 10:00 AM.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: Tuesday, June 1, 10:00 AM.

ADVISORY: The Turquoise Lake fire south of Farewell Lake is causing areas of smoke across parts of the Upper Kuskokwim Valley. Winds in the region today will be from the southeast, pushing smoke northward towards McGrath and Nikolai. The rest of the weekend, winds will be light and mostly out of the west through southwest, so expect communities and roadways just to the east and northeast of the fire to experience the worst conditions. Overall air quality around this region will be **good to moderate**, with some areas closest to the fires experiencing periods that are **unhealthy for sensitive groups**.

A second area of smoke impacting the Central Interior and Middle Tanana Valley are from several fires, mainly the Toklat fire southwest of Nenana, and the Applegate fire northeast of Manley Hot Springs. Winds in the region will be light and mostly out of the west through southwest throughout the weekend, so expect communities and roadways just to the east and northeast of these fires to experience the worst conditions. Overall air quality around this region will be **good to moderate**, with some areas closest to the fires experiencing periods that are **unhealthy**.

The forecast for the much of Interior Alaska is for mostly cloudy skies with isolated thunderstorms for this weekend. High pressure will keep winds light throughout most of the Interior. Local wind flow patterns will affect smoke dispersion and the area for the greatest impact from these fires. The warming and drying trend over the past week will continue this weekend which will lead to increased fire activity and increased smoke production. 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. Also, worse conditions generally occur during the nighttime to 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 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:

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.

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NOTIFICATION LIST:

Upper Kuskokwim Valley (227)

Aniak
Chuathbaluk
Napaimute
Crooked Creek
Georgetown
Red Devil
Sleetmute
Stony River
Sparrevohn
Lime Village
McGrath
Takotna
Tatalina
Nikolai
Telida

Rampart
Lake Minchumina
Livengood
Rampart

Central Interior (221)

Nenana
Anderson
Ferry
Four Mile Road
Tanana
Minto
Manley Hot Spgs