

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY  
Interior AK #2009-01**

**LOCATION(S) IMPACTED:** Middle Tanana Valley, Yukon Flats and Uplands, Central Interior, Denali Park, Deltana and Tanana Flats

**TIME/DATE OF UPDATE:** Saturday, July 4, 4:00 PM.

**VALID TIME:** Valid July 4 at 4:00 PM until July 6 at 10:00 AM.

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** Monday, July 6, 10:00 AM.

**ADVISORY:** Several fires north of Denali National Park including the Bear Creek, Zitziana and Bear Lake Fires are causing areas of smoke across much of the Central Interior, Middle Tanana Valley and areas near Denali National Park. Winds in the region will be light and mostly out of the west through southwest, 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**.

A second area of smoke impact is the Yukon Flats and Uplands. Winds are expected to be out of the west throughout the weekend, which will move smoke from the Sheenjok Fire away from Fort Yukon and the communities of Circle and Central. However, the Little Black One Fire may produce enough smoke to reach these areas. Overall air quality around this region will be **good**, with some areas experiencing periods that are **unhealthy for sensitive individuals**.

The forecast for the Central and Eastern Interior, as well as the Yukon Flats and Uplands, is for partly cloudy skies with showers and isolated thunderstorms for this evening and into Sunday. High pressure will keep winds light through the Interior. Temperatures will remain above average, and this warming and drying will lead to increased fire activity and increased smoke production. Areas of smoke will 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:**

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-Shea with the Division of Air Quality, at 907-269-7676.

**NOTIFICATION LIST:**

**Middle Tanana Valley**

Fairbanks NSB  
Fairbanks  
Ft Wainwright  
Eielson AFB  
College  
Ester  
North Pole  
Moose Creek  
Fox  
Chatanika  
Chena Hot Spgs  
Pleasant Valley  
Sourdough Camp  
Two Rivers

**Deltana & Tanana Flats**

Salcha  
Delta Junction  
Big Delta  
Ft Greely  
Deltana  
Harding/Birch Lakes  
Dry Creek  
Healy Lake  
Dot Lake  
Dot Lake Village

**Central Interior**

Nenana  
Anderson  
Clear Air Station  
Healy  
Ferry  
Four Mile Road  
Tanana  
Minto  
Manley Hot Spgs  
Rampart

**Denali Park**

Denali Borough  
Healy  
Denali Ntl Park  
Carlo Creek  
Kantishna

**Yukon Flats & Uplands**

Fort Yukon  
Venetie  
Birch Creek  
Beaver  
Stevens Village  
Chalkyitsik  
Circle  
Central  
Twelvemile Summit  
Circle Hot Springs  
Eagle Summit