

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

SITUATION REPORT

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

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: Upper Kuskokwim Valley, Central Interior, Middle Tanana Valley, Deltana & Tanana Flats.

TIME/DATE OF UPDATE: Friday, May 28, 4:00 PM, *revised 2:30 PM Saturday to include the Middle Tanana Valley, Deltana & Tanana Flats.*

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: 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 weekend. 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 Toklat fire may cause periods of smoky conditions for Nenana, and possibly as far south as Lake Minchumina and into Fairbanks.
- Several fires along and south of the Tanana River will cause periods of smoke from Livengood down to Manley Hot Springs and near Tanana.
- The Gilles Creek fire will cause periods of smoke for Big Delta, Delta Junction and other communities along the Richardson Highway, possibly as far north as Fairbanks.
- The Turquoise Lake fire south of Farewell Lake is causing areas of smoke across parts of the Upper Kuskokwim Valley, including McGrath and Nikolai.

The forecast for 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 state. 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. . 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.

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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

Central Interior (221)

- Nenana
- Anderson
- Ferry
- Four Mile Road

- Tanana
- Minto
- Manley Hot Spgs
- Rampart
- Lake Minchumina
- Livengood
- Rampart
- Middle Tanana Valley** (222)
- Fairbanks North Star Borough
- Ester
- Fairbanks
- College
- Ft Wainwright
- Eielson AFB
- North Pole
- Moose Creek
- Fox
- Chatanika
- Pleasant Valley
- Two Rivers
- Chena Hot Spgs
- Sourdough Camp

Deltana & Tanana Flats (223)

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