

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

SITUATION REPORT

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY
Interior AK #2009-07**

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: Middle Tanana Valley, Upper Koyukuk Valley, Yukon Flats and Uplands, Central Interior, Deltana & Tanana Flats, Southeast Brooks Range.

TIME/DATE OF UPDATE: Monday, July 27, 12:00 PM.

VALID TIME: Valid July 27 at 12:00 PM until July 29 at 12:00 PM.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: Wednesday, July 29, 12:00 PM.

ADVISORY: Air Quality in Interior Alaska continues to be affected by several fires burning across the central portion of the state. Hotter temperatures, along with periods of stronger winds from the south, will likely lead to increased fire activity and smoke production for these fires that have been active for some time. Communities to the north of these fires will experience periods of smoke and potentially poor air quality conditions over the next few days.

-The northern portion of the Wood River 1 Fire south of Fairbanks continues to grow, and smoke from this fire will continue to drift into Fairbanks.

-The Minto Flats South Fire (part of the Railbelt Complex) may cause periods of smoky conditions for Nenana, and possibly as far north as Minto.

-Several fires south of the Tanana River will cause periods of smoke for Tanana, and Manley Hot Springs.

-The Little Black One Fire will cause periods of smoke for Chalkyitsik and Fort Yukon, and possibly as far north as Arctic Village.

For all of these locations, air quality will predominantly be **moderate**, with periods that are **very unhealthy**. High pressure will continue to build into the Interior throughout the week, and while winds will be gusty at times, air quality in communities near these fires may become **hazardous** at times.

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>.

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

Upper Koyukuk Valley (219)

Allakaket
New Allakaket
Alatna
Hughes
Bettles
Evansville
Caribou Mtn
Gobblers Knob

Southeast Brooks Range (218)

Arctic Village
Wiseman
Coldfoot
Chandalar
DOT Camp
Iniakuk Lake

Central Interior

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

Deltana & Tanana Flats (223)

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

Yukon Flats & Uplands

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