

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY  
South Central AK #2009-03**

**LOCATION(S) IMPACTED:** Susitna Valley, Copper River Basin

**TIME/DATE OF UPDATE:** Monday, July 6, 11:00 AM.

**VALID TIME:** Valid July 6 at 11:00 AM until July 8 at 10:00 AM.

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** Wednesday, July 8, 10:00 AM.

**ADVISORY:** Several fires north of Denali National Park continue to burn and are causing smoke to drift into the Susitna Valley as far south as Talkeetna. Winds in the region will remain light and variable through Tuesday, keeping smoke from over the weekend and recent smoke production from these fires in the area. Overall air quality around this region will be **good to moderate**, with periods that are **unhealthy for sensitive individuals**.

The Chakina Fire in the Copper River Basin is producing smoke that is impacting this area. Winds are expected to be light and variable in this region as well, which will keep smoke in the area through Tuesday. Overall air quality around this region will be **good to moderate**, with some areas experiencing periods that are **unhealthy for sensitive individuals**.

The forecast for the Susitna Valley, as well as the Copper River Basin, is for partly cloudy skies and above average temperatures through Tuesday. High pressure is keeping winds light throughout South Central, so smoky conditions will persist. No precipitation is expected, so fire activity will likely increase along with smoke production.

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:**

**Copper River Basin** (141)

Glennallen  
Gulkana  
Gakona  
Eureka  
McCarthy  
Paxson  
Slana  
Nabesna  
Chisana  
Copper Center  
Tazlina  
Tonsina  
Tolsona  
Silver Springs  
Nelchina  
Mendeltna  
Lake Louise  
Kenny Lake  
Chistochina  
Chitina  
Copperville

**Susitna Valley** (145)

Matanuska-Sustina Borough

Talkeetna  
Willow  
Cantwell  
Point MacKenzie  
Chase  
Petersville  
Susitna  
Trapper Creek  
Skwentna  
Tyonek