

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

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

**LOCATION(S) IMPACTED:** Taiya Inlet/Klondike Highway, Haines Borough/Lynn Canal, Juneau Borough.

**TIME/DATE OF UPDATE:** Monday, August 3, 12:00 PM.

**VALID TIME:** Valid August 3 at 12:00 PM until August 5 at 12:00 PM.

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** Wednesday, August 5, 12:00 PM.

**ADVISORY:** Hazy conditions for several communities in Southeast Alaska are expected for the next few days. Several fires in the Yukon Territory and British Columbia have been very active over the past week due to the warm and dry weather. Smoke and haze from these fires have been observed this morning from Skagway to Juneau, and winds from the north will continue to bring smoke and haze into Southeast Alaska. Overall air quality will predominantly be **good to moderate**, with periods that may become **unhealthy for sensitive groups**.

The forecast for Southeast Alaska is for mostly sunny skies through Wednesday as the ridge of high pressure remains over eastern Alaska and Canada. Winds will be out of the north today, and becoming light and variable on Tuesday. These light winds will keep smoke in the area, and local wind flow patterns will affect how smoke disperses and the areas of greatest impact.

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.

**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:**

**Taiya Inlet/Klondike**

**Highway (018)**

Skagway

**Haines Borough/Lynn**

**Canal (019)**

Haines Borough

Haines

Klukwan

Lutak

Covenant Life

Mosquito Lake

Mud Bay

**Juneau Borough/North**

**Admiralty Island (025)**

City & Borough of Juneau

Juneau

Douglas