

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Air Quality
SITUATION REPORT
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY
Central Interior AK #2010-07

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: Fairbanks, North Pole, and immediate surrounding areas

TIME/DATE OF UPDATE: Thursday, December 9, 2010, 2:00 PM

VALID TIME: Valid December 9, 2:00 PM until Friday, December 10 at 2:00 PM.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: Friday, December 10 at 2:00 PM.

ADVISORY: Air Quality in Fairbanks, North Pole and the immediate surrounding area has remained unhealthy due to elevated levels of fine particulate matter. Conditions have been **UNHEALTHY** over the last 24 hours and may persist at these levels for this evening and tomorrow morning. There is a potential for conditions to improve to **UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS** during this time period as the most recent National Weather Service forecast is for increasing clouds with a chance of snow flurries this evening.

PUBLIC IMPACT:

This is an area forecast, and as such is a general forecast for the Fairbanks and North Pole area. Pollution levels will vary depending on precise location, local emission sources, and wind flow patterns. Note that the particulate matter readings are from the downtown areas of Fairbanks and North Pole and may not be representative in your area. If you are sensitive to respiratory problems and experience any effects please follow the instructions of your physician.

Residents can take proactive measures to improve air quality by voluntarily reducing wood and coal burning while this air quality advisory is in effect. Residents who need to burn wood should ensure it is seasoned and practice smart burning practices. More information on Fairbanks air quality and ways to improve it are available at the following web sites:

http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/anpms/comm/fbks_pm.htm

<http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>

CURRENT OPEN BURN RESTRICTIONS: The Fairbanks North Star Borough prohibits open burning in certain areas during the period from November 1 through the end of February. For information on open burning, please contact the Borough at 459-1325.

The Air Quality Index is currently Unhealthy. People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid prolonged exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged exertion. The primary pollutant for the current AQI is PM-2.5 Particulate.

The National Weather Service forecast is expected to result in poor dispersion conditions. Therefore Air Quality today is expected to be Unhealthy, and may not meet federal health standards. The Air Quality may become Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups later this evening.

As long as conditions remain **UNHEALTHY**, people with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly, and children should avoid prolonged exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged exertion.

DEC advises anyone with respiratory illness or heart disease, the elderly, and children to avoid prolonged exertion. All others are cautioned to limit outdoor activities or physical exertion when conditions reach unhealthy levels, as defined below:

The following table is the Air Quality Index for Particle Pollution.

AQI level	AQI Category	AQI 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For information on FNSB Air Quality, visit their website at:
<http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>

For information on PM_{2.5} issues in the Fairbanks area from the Department of Environmental Conservation, Air Quality Division, visit the website at:
http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/anpms/comm/fbks_pm.htm

For information on this advisory, contact Barbara Trost with the Division of Air Quality, at 907-269-6249.

NOTIFICATION LIST:

FNSB-Air Quality
North Pole