



DEC NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEC Expands Air Quality Alert to Include Lower Kenai Peninsula

August 27, 2004-Airborne levels of fine particulates (smoke) continue to impact residents of the Kenai Peninsula despite the rain which passed through the area yesterday. Smoke from the Glacier Creek wildfire near Tustumena Lake is moving along the southwestern side of the Peninsula and impacting Homer and Seldovia. Air quality has degraded to **unhealthy levels for all persons** and is expected to remain unhealthy to hazardous for the next 48 hours depending on one's proximity to the smoke. Conditions should improve in the Homer area by early next week, but smoke is expected to impact Peninsula residents as long as the fire continues.

DEC advises everyone with respiratory illness or heart disease, the elderly and children, to avoid outdoor activity. All others are cautioned to avoid outdoor activities or physical exertion.

The best course of action is to minimize one's exposure to smoke; health effects will depend on one's sensitivity and proximity to the fires. People with preexisting cardiovascular illnesses and those who are affected by the smoke should follow the advice of their physician.

This alert remains in effect until conditions improve and smoke diminishes.

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Air is not monitored by instruments on the Kenai Peninsula. This guide may be used to estimate air quality levels and potential health impacts.

<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Air Quality</u>
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