



DEC NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEC Issues Air Quality Advisory for Western Alaska

August 27, 2004—Smoke from fires in Interior Alaska continues to flow into the western portion of the State south of the Seward Peninsula, causing visibility to drop below 2 miles from Nome southward to King Salmon. Air quality levels are estimated to be in the **unhealthy to very unhealthy levels for all persons** and expected to remain at these levels for the next 3-4 days.

DEC advises everyone with respiratory illness or heart disease, the elderly and children, to avoid outside activity. All others are cautioned to avoid outdoor activities or physical exertion. Local school districts may want to curtail outdoor sports programs.

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. Conditions are expected to improve by early next week.

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

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Air is not monitored by instruments in Western Alaska. This 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