

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

**Division of Air Quality
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY
Central and Eastern Alaska #2021-F1
Tuesday, June 15, 2021**

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: The Tanana Valley is experiencing degraded air quality due to wildfire smoke from the Dry Creek, Haystack, and Winter Trail fires.

VALID TIME: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 5:00 PM to Thursday June 17, 2021 4:00 PM, advisory will be issued until end of the event.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: Thursday June 17, 2021 4:00 PM, if needed.

ADVISORY: Smoke from the Dry Creek, Haystack, and Winter Trail fires in Central Alaska have seen significant growth of the last 12 hours. Warm/dry conditions will continue through today, supporting fire/smoke development. Wetting rains are forecasted to move into the area tomorrow, not sure if it will be enough to diminish smoke production. Air Quality will vary between **GOOD** and **UNHEALTHY** depending on wind flow and proximity to the fires. **See the table below for more guidance on the Air Quality Categories and Cautionary Statements.**

Be aware 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 Southwestern 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>.

In smoke impacted areas, DEC advises people with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid prolonged exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged exertion.

The following table contains the cautionary statements for the Air Quality for Particle Pollution.

| Air Quality Category | Cautionary Statements |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Good | None |
| Moderate | Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion. |
| Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups | People with heart or lung disease, the elderly and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion. |
| Unhealthy | People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid prolonged exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged exertion |
| Very Unhealthy | People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid any outdoor activity; everyone else should avoid prolonged exertion |
| 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 |
| 1.5 - 2.5 miles | groups |
| 0.9 - 1.4 miles | Unhealthy |
| 0.8 miles or less | Very Unhealthy |
| | Hazardous |

FOR MORE INFORMATION: For information on this advisory, contact Mark Smith with the Division of Air Quality at 907-269-7676.