

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

**Division of Air Quality  
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY  
Central and Eastern Alaska #2021-F5  
Monday, July 19, 2021**

**LOCATION(S) IMPACTED:** The Tanana Valley and Eastern Interior region will be experiencing degraded air quality due to wildfire smoke from the Sischu and Munson Creek fires.

**VALID TIME:** Monday, July 19, 2021 11:00 PM to Wednesday, July 21, 2021 5:00 PM, advisory will be issued until end of the event.

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** Wednesday, July 21, 5:00 PM, if needed.

**ADVISORY:** The Sischu fire on southwest edge of the Tanana Valley and the Munson Creek fire experienced increased fire activity today due to the hot/dry conditions. Smoke from the fires will fill Tanana Valley's low-lying areas in the morning hours for the next few days. Munson Creek smoke will drain down the Chena River into Fairbanks also in the mornings. During the late morning and afternoon hours smoke will lift into the transport winds and move northeast. Continued fire/smoke activity is expected until wetting rains move in from the west Wednesday. 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.

<b>Air Quality Category</b>	<b>Cautionary Statements</b>
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:

<b>Visibility</b>	<b>Air Quality</b>
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 this advisory, contact Mark Smith with the Division of Air Quality at 907-269-7676.

