

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

**Division of Air Quality
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY
South Central Alaska #2021-F7
Tuesday, August 3, 2021**

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: Tok, Northway, Copper River Valley, Palmer, Wasilla and the Anchorage area will see degraded air quality due to wildfire smoke being transported by upper-level winds from the fires just over the border in Canada.

VALID TIME: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 9:00 AM to Thursday, August 5, 2021 9:00 AM, advisory will be issued until end of the event.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: Thursday, August 5, 9:00 AM, if needed.

ADVISORY: Fires from over the border in Canada, in the southern area of the Yukon province continues to be very active with the absence of wetting rains. Upper-level wind from the area will be transporting smoke into the south-central area of Alaska for the next few days. The majority of the smoke is trapped above low-level clouds, as the smoke moves west it will sink into the river valleys when it is transported over the mountains. The flow is expected to change Thursday as the low to the south moves off to the east. At that time, the smoke from the Yukon fires will stay in Canada. 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.

