

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Air Quality

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY

Central and Eastern Alaska #2023-F3

Sunday July 23, 2023

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: Upper/Low level smoke from the Canadian fires will be impact Central and Eastern Alaska

TIME/DATE OF UPDATE: Sunday July 23, 2023, 7:00 PM

VALID TIME: Sunday July 23, 2023, 7:00 PM to Tuesday July 25, 2023, 2:00 PM, advisory will be issued until end of the event.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: Tuesday July 25, 2023, 2:00 PM, if needed.

ADVISORY: Fires in Canada continue to burn and intensify. The longwave wind pattern has shifted, allowing smoke from those fires to again migrate into the Central and Eastern region of Alaska.. Majority of the impact will be haze, smoke will start to settle in the higher elevations this evening. There are a few fires in the Yukon Territory that have intensified this afternoon. Those fires have the potential to impact Eastern Alaska with a higher concentration of low level smoke. Communities in the shaded yellow area below will see smoke impacts. Conditions support continued fire and smoke production for the advisory period. Air Quality will vary between **GOOD** and **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** depending on wind flow and the amount of smoke that settles into the region. In the image below, highlighted yellow area, is the forecasted impacted area associated with this advisory. **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 for the surrounding impacted areas may be found on the Federal Aviation Administration Weather Cams homepage at <https://weathercams.faa.gov/>.

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 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.

