

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Air Quality
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY
Central and Eastern Alaska #2024-F5
Thursday June 20, 2024

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: Central and Eastern Alaska.

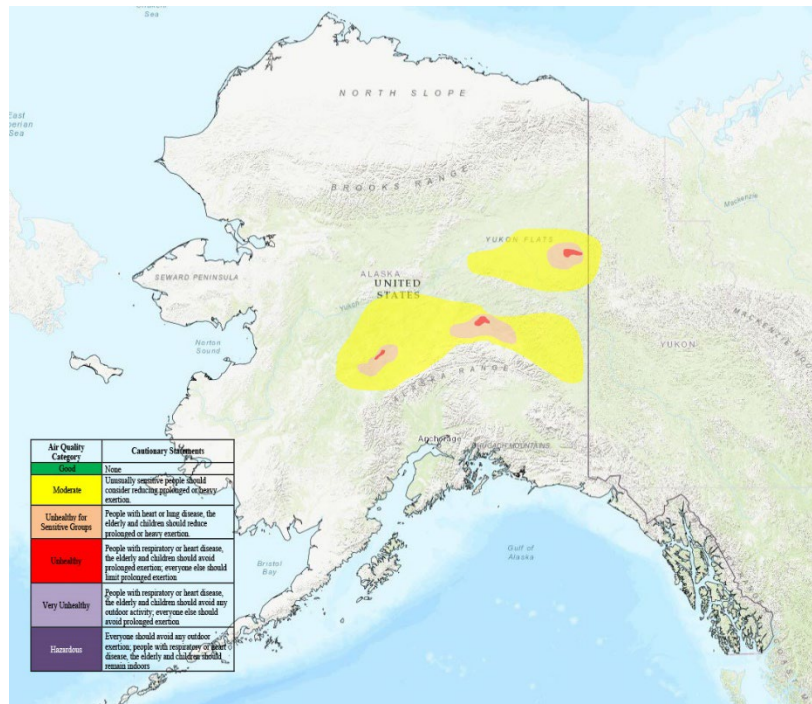
TIME/DATE OF UPDATE: Thursday June 20, 2024, 2:00 PM

VALID TIME: Thursday June 20, 2024, 2:00 PM to Sunday June 23, 2024, 2:00 PM, advisory will be issued until end of the event.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: Sunday June 23, 2024, 2:00 PM, if needed.

ADVISORY: The McDonald Fire is still an active smoke producer impacting air quality in the Tanana Flats. The Owl and Midnight Fires NE of Circle, near the Canadian border have been moderate smoke producers the past few days. The low-level wind pattern has begun to shift, smoke from those fires will stay on the Alaskan side of the border. Additionally, the Meadow Creek and Lower Meadow Creek fires NE of McGrath have seen some growth, expect them to continue to add smoke to the region. There may be some relief today and tomorrow as wetting rains from thunderstorms are forecasted within the region. During the evening hours, smoke will settle in the flats/low lying areas, impacting a larger number of communities in the area.

Air quality in the region will fluctuate between **GOOD** and **UNHEALTHY**, with downstream areas of the fires experiencing the most significant impacts. The highlighted areas in the image below indicate the forecasted impacted regions associated with this advisory. Refer to the table below for more guidance on 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.