

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Air Quality
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY
Central and Eastern Alaska #2024-F6
Sunday June 23, 2024

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: Central and Eastern Alaska.

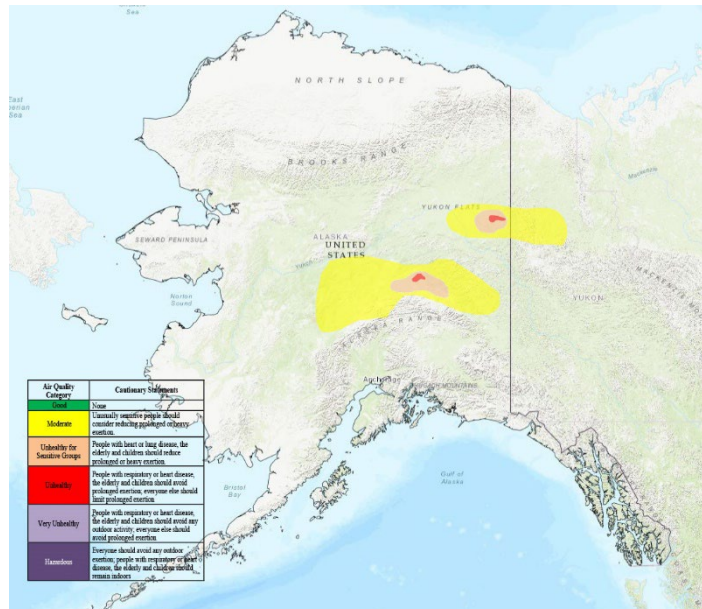
TIME/DATE OF UPDATE: Sunday June 23, 2024, 2:00 PM

VALID TIME: Sunday June 23, 2024, 2:00 PM to Tuesday June 25, 2024, 2:00 PM, advisory will be issued until end of the event.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: Tuesday June 25, 2024, 2:00 PM, if needed.

ADVISORY: The McDonald Fire is still an active smoke producer along with the new Clear Fire just to the NW of McDonald. Both will be impacting air quality in the Tanana Flats. The Midnight Fire, near the Canadian border, is very active today and smoke production is very visible in the current satellite imagery. Current winds are not in phase, low-level winds are transporting smoke to the east, while upper-level winds will transport smoke to the east into Canada. Not much happening at this time out west with the new fire starts, but if they do intensify Central region could see moderate impacts. Starting Monday low-level winds will begin to transition to a westerly component, transporting surface smoke to the west. During the evening/early morning 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.