

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Air Quality
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY
Central and Eastern Alaska #2024-F16
Wednesday July 24, 2024

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: Central and Eastern Alaska.

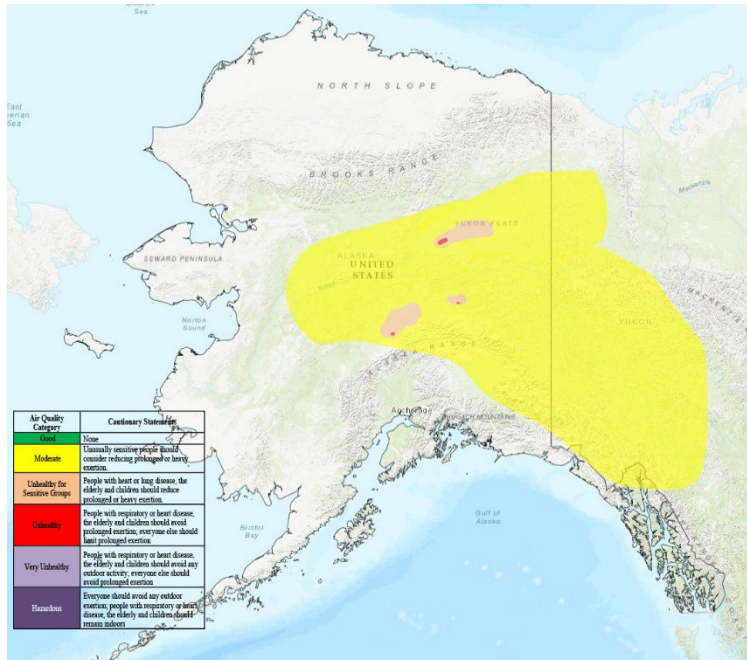
TIME/DATE OF UPDATE: Wednesday July 24, 2024, 2:00 PM

VALID TIME: Wednesday July 24, 2024, 2:00 PM to Thursday July 25, 2024, 2:00 PM, advisory will be issued until end of the event.

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

ADVISORY: Continued drying has allowed for some fires to increase their smoke production. The southern flank of the McDonald and the East Toklat Fires have added to the smoke impacting the Tanana Flats. The National Fire, part of the Grapefruit Complex, also continues to produce smoke. Expect increased activity until wetting rains move through the region Thursday. Look for other hot spots to start producing smoke as the fuels continue to dry. Canadian upper-level smoke is dominating the region, expect higher elevations to so see impacts from that smoke as it settles.

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 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.