



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Air Quality

FNSB Air Quality Stage 2 Alert

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: North Pole Zone

EFFECTIVE: TIME/DATE: Wednesday January 21, 2026, 2:00 PM

EXPIRES: TIME/DATE: Thursday January 22, 2026, 2:00 PM

ALERT TYPE: Stage 2– Curtailment required, see below for details.

EXCEPTIONS: NOAA waiver holders only

MANDATORY ACTION REQUIRED BY RESIDENTS; All solid fuel-fired heating devices must cease operation unless the exceptions above apply. All **WAIVER HOLDERS** are still required to meet the 20% visible emission or opacity limit during any air quality episodes/alert. Residents should rely instead on their home's cleaner source of heat (such as a gas or fuel oil fired furnace or boiler or electric baseboard heaters) until the Stage 2 alert is canceled.

Residents must withhold fuel and make sure that combustion, as evidenced by visible smoke from a chimney, has stopped within three hours of the effective time of this alert.

This does not apply during a power outage.

OUTDOOR OPEN BURNING: ALL OPEN BURNING IS PROHIBITED in the PM_{2.5} Nonattainment area from **November 1st – March 31st**, including the use of burn barrels. Bonfires, campfires, and ceremonial fires are also prohibited during a Stage 2 alert.

ADDITIONAL Voluntary Actions: Plug In at 20 degrees or colder, ride the bus, or carpool.

FORECAST: The surface inversion was strong enough that even the high clouds had little impact on increasing the dispersion of PM (particulate matter). Clouds thinning out a little tonight; the inversion will remain strong for the next few days. Expect poor to very poor dispersion though the alert period. We are forecasting the North Pole air quality to remain **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** with periods of **Unhealthy** or worse during the alert period, with 24hr average PM_{2.5} values >30ug/m³ for the next 24 hours.

Stage 2 restrictions are called once levels are forecasted to or have reached an **UNHEALTHY for SENSITIVE GROUPS** or higher category

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

Note: Air Quality readings are from monitoring stations in Fairbanks and North Pole and may not be representative of your neighborhood. If you are sensitive to air pollution, or experience any respiratory problems, please follow the instructions of your physician.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For information regarding this alert, please contact us at fnsbair@alaska.gov. For more information on the DEC alert and curtailment program, and how to apply for a NOAA waiver, visit <http://fnsbair.dec.alaska.gov>. Alert announcements are also recorded on our phone line at 907-748-2142