

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Air Quality**

SITUATION REPORT

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY
Interior AK #2009-11**

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: Middle Tanana Valley, Upper Koyukuk Valley, Yukon Flats and Uplands, Central Interior, Deltana & Tanana Flats, Southeast Brooks Range, Upper Tanana and the Fortymile Country.

TIME/DATE OF UPDATE: Wednesday, August 5, 1:00 PM.

VALID TIME: Valid August 5 at 1:00 PM until August 6 at 5:00 PM.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: Thursday, August 6, 5:00 PM.

ADVISORY: Air Quality in Interior Alaska continues to be affected by several large fires burning across the central portion of the state. With continued warm temperatures and no chance for precipitation in sight for the next few days, fire activity and smoke production will continue. Communities near these fires will continue to experience periods of dense smoke and poor air quality conditions over the next few days.

- The Wood River 1 and Hardluck Creek Fires are causing periods of smoky conditions for Fairbanks, and may cause visibility issues along the Parks and Richardson Highways.
- Several fires south of the Tanana River are affecting air quality in Tanana, Lake Minchumina and Manley Hot Springs.
- The Crazy Mountain Complex of fires is very close to Circle, and is causing poor air quality for Fort Yukon and Central.
- Smoke from these fires, as well as larger fires such as the Railbelt Complex, Big Creek and Crazy Mountain Complex, is reaching the North Slope, and affecting communities in the Western Interior as well.

For all of these locations, air quality will predominantly be **unhealthy for sensitive groups**, with many areas reporting **very unhealthy** air quality. Throughout the next few days, conditions will fluctuate and worsen in some areas, and air quality may become **hazardous** at times. The forecast for the Central Interior is for partly cloudy skies and warm temperatures. Winds will be light and variable today, and begin to turn more westerly/southwesterly on Thursday.

Keep in mind 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. Hot, dry weather will lead to extensive fire activity, dramatically increasing smoke

production, and thus causing the worst visibilities to occur in the late afternoon and early evening hours.

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 may be found on National Weather Service’s homepage at <http://pafc.arh.noaa.gov/obs.php>.

DEC advises anyone with respiratory illness or heart disease, the elderly, and children to avoid exposure to smoke. For information on Wildfire Smoke from the Department of Health and Social Services, visit their website at <http://www.epi.alaska.gov/eh/wildfire/default.htm>. All others are cautioned to avoid outdoor activities or physical exertion when conditions reach unhealthy levels, as defined below:

The following table is the Air Quality Index for Particle Pollution.

| Index Values | Levels of Health Concern | Cautionary Statements |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 0-50 | Good | None |
| 51-100 | Moderate | Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion. |
| 101-150 | Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups | People with heart or lung disease, the elderly and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion. |
| 151-200 | Unhealthy | People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid prolonged exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged exertion. |
| 201-300 | Very Unhealthy | People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid any outdoor activity; everyone else should avoid prolonged exertion. |
| Over 300 | 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 Wildfire Smoke from the Department of Health and Social Services, visit their website at <http://www.epi.alaska.gov/eh/wildfire/default.htm>.

For information on Wildfire Smoke from the Department of Environmental Conservation, Air Quality Division, visit the website at <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/smokemain.htm>.

For information on road conditions around Alaska, visit the Road Traveler Information System at <http://511.alaska.gov/>.

For information on the Air Quality in Fairbanks, visit the Fairbanks North Star Borough at <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>.

For information on this advisory, contact Cindy Dettmer-Shea with the Division of Air Quality, at 907-269-7676.

NOTIFICATION LIST:

Middle Tanana Valley

Fairbanks NSB
Fairbanks
Ft Wainwright
Eielson AFB
College
Ester
North Pole
Moose Creek
Fox
Chatanika
Chena Hot Spgs
Pleasant Valley
Sourdough Camp
Two Rivers

Central Interior

Nenana
Anderson
Clear Air Station
Healy
Ferry
Four Mile Road
Tanana
Minto
Manley Hot Spgs
Rampart

Yukon Flats & Uplands

Fort Yukon
Venetie

Birch Creek

Beaver

Stevens Village

Chalkyitsik

Circle

Central

Twelvemile Summit

Circle Hot Springs

Eagle Summit

Upper Koyukuk Valley (219)

Allakaket

New Allakaket

Alatna

Hughes

Bettles

Evansville

Caribou Mtn

Gobblers Knob

Southeast Brooks Range (218)

Arctic Village

Wiseman

Coldfoot

Chandalar

DOT Camp

Iniakuk Lake

Deltana & Tanana Flats (223)

Salcha

Harding/Birch Lakes

Big Delta

Delta Junction

Ft Greely

Deltana

Dry Creek

Healy Lake

Dot Lake

Dot Lake Village

Upper Tanana Valley & Fortymile Country (224)

Alcan

Eagle

Eagle Village

Boundary

Chicken

Northway

Northway Village

Northway Junction

Tetlin

Tok

Tanacross

Eastern Alaska Range (226)

Mentasta Lake

Black Rapids

Donnelly Dome

Trims Camp

Eagle Trail

Mineral Lake