

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Air Quality

SITUATION REPORT

AIR QUALITY ADVISORY
Interior AK #2009-03

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: Middle Tanana Valley, Yukon Flats and Uplands, Central Interior, Denali Park, Deltana and Tanana Flats, Upper Tanana Valley & Fortymile Country.

TIME/DATE OF UPDATE: Wednesday, July 8, 11:30 AM.

VALID TIME: Valid July 8 at 11:30 AM until July 9 at 5:00 PM.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: Thursday, July 9, 5:00 PM.

ADVISORY: The Minto Flats South, Zitziana and Bear Creek Fires north of Denali National Park continue to increase in size, and are causing areas of smoke across much of the Central Interior, Middle Tanana Valley and areas near Denali National Park. For Wednesday, overall air quality will be **good to moderate**, with some areas closest to the fires experiencing periods that are **unhealthy**. Winds for the Interior will remain light through this afternoon, and will begin increasing from the west this evening, and air quality should improve overnight.

The Sheenjek, Rock Slough, and Little Black One Fires in the Yukon Flats and Uplands are also increasing in size and producing quite a bit of smoke. Winds are expected to be out of the northeast today, and turning more westerly on Thursday. Smoke from these fires will likely impact communities west of the fires such as Venetie and Circle through today. Overall air quality will be **good**, with some areas experiencing periods that are **unhealthy for sensitive individuals**. Air quality should also improve for this area overnight.

High pressure will continue to keep warm temperatures and light winds for most of the Central and Eastern Interior through Wednesday. A band of showers and thunderstorms will make its way across the State this evening and into Thursday which will help to improve air quality. Winds will also increase and should help with getting some of the smoke and haze out of the area. This reprieve will be short lived, as warm temperatures and high pressure are expected to return towards the weekend.

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. Alternatively, hot, dry weather may 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. This is what has been observed over much of the past week throughout the State, as high pressure has dominated the weather pattern.

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>.

CURRENT BURN RESTRICTIONS: None.

DEC advises anyone with respiratory illness or heart disease, the elderly, and children to avoid exposure to smoke. 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 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

Deltana & Tanana Flats

Salcha
Delta Junction
Big Delta
Ft Greely
Deltana
Harding/Birch Lakes
Dry Creek
Healy Lake
Dot Lake
Dot Lake Village

Central Interior

Nenana
Anderson
Clear Air Station
Healy
Ferry

Four Mile Road

Tanana
Minto
Manley Hot Spgs
Rampart

Denali Park

Denali Borough
Healy
Denali Ntl Park
Carlo Creek
Kantishna

Yukon Flats & Uplands

Fort Yukon
Venetie
Birch Creek
Beaver
Stevens Village
Chalkyitsik
Circle
Central
Twelvemile Summit
Circle Hot Springs
Eagle Summit

Upper Tanana Valley & Fortymile Country (224)

Alcan
Eagle
Eagle Village
Boundary
Chicken
Northway
Northway Village

Northway Junction

Tetlin
Tok
Tanacross