

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY  
Interior AK #2009-05**

**LOCATION(S) IMPACTED:** Middle Tanana Valley, Upper Koyukuk Valley, Yukon Flats and Uplands, Central Interior, Denali Park, Deltana and Tanana Flats, Eastern Alaska Range.

**TIME/DATE OF UPDATE:** Monday, July 20, 1:00 PM.

**VALID TIME:** Valid July 20 at 1:00 PM until July 22 at 11:00 AM.

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** Wednesday, July 22, 11:00 AM.

**ADVISORY:** There are several fires in the Interior to the north of Denali National Park, and the warm and dry conditions this area has experienced are causing the fires to continue to increase in size. Areas of smoke from these fires have been present for the past few weeks across most of the Interior, and will continue to affect the region. Winds for the Interior will be light through this evening, and will begin turning to be from the south/southeast on Tuesday. Overall air quality will be **moderate** to **unhealthy for sensitive individuals**, with some areas closest to the fires experiencing periods that are **hazardous**.

The Sheenjok, Rock Slough, and Little Black One Fires are still actively growing and producing smoke in the Yukon Flats and Uplands. Winds will remain light today, keeping smoke from over the weekend and recent smoke production from these fires in the area. The winds are expected to be from the east/southeast around 10 mph on Tuesday, which may help dissipate some of the smoke that is lingering in this area. However smoke will likely continue to impact communities in this area through the rest of the week. Overall air quality will be **good**, with some areas experiencing periods that are **unhealthy**.

The forecast for the Interior is for partly cloudy skies and temperatures in the upper 70s to lower 80s. Isolated showers and thunderstorms are possible for most of the Interior for Monday, and are possible on Tuesday for the Southeastern Brooks Range, and northern portions of the Upper Koyukuk Valley and Yukon Flats areas.

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.

**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. 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 Koyukuk Valley (219)**

Allakaket  
New Allakaket  
Alatna  
Hughes  
Bettles  
Evansville  
Caribou Mtn  
Gobblers Knob

##### **Eastern Alaska Range (226)**

Mentasta Lake  
Black Rapids  
Donnelly Dome  
Trims Camp  
Eagle Trail  
Mineral Lake