

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

SITUATION REPORT

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY
Interior AK #2009-06**

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: Middle Tanana Valley, Upper Koyukuk Valley, Yukon Flats and Uplands, Central Interior.

TIME/DATE OF UPDATE: Thursday, July 23, 4:00 PM.

VALID TIME: Valid July 23 at 4:00 PM until July 27 at 12:00 PM.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: Monday, July 27, 12:00 PM.

ADVISORY: The Interior continues to see smoke from fires burning west of Nenana and Fairbanks. 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. Light winds on Thursday will keep smoke from the Wood River fire nearby and may produce enough smoke to reach the Fairbanks area. Winds in the region are forecast to be predominately out of the south for the weekend, so communities to the north and those closest to the fires, such as Nenana, Tanana and Fairbanks, are expected to see the smokiest conditions. Overall air quality will be **good**, with some areas closest to the fires experiencing periods that are **unhealthy for sensitive individuals**.

The Little Black One Fire is still actively growing and producing smoke in the Yukon Flats and Uplands. Winds will be out of the southwest today through Saturday, and beginning to turn to be from the east on Saturday evening. Smoke will likely continue to impact communities in this area through the weekend. 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. Dry and warm conditions on Friday and throughout the weekend will allow fire activity to grow, so smoky conditions are possibly for most of Interior Alaska.

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

Upper Koyukuk Valley (219)

Allakaket
New Allakaket
Alatna
Hughes
Bettles
Evansville
Caribou Mtn
Gobblers Knob

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