

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY  
Interior AK #2009-08**

**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, July 29, 11:00 AM.

**VALID TIME:** Valid July 29 at 11:00 AM until July 31 at 12:00 PM.

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** Friday, July 31, 12:00 PM.

**ADVISORY:** Air Quality in Interior Alaska continues to be affected by several fires burning across the central portion of the state. With temperatures well above average and no chance for precipitation in sight for the next few days, fire activity and smoke production will continue. Communities near these fires will experience periods of smoke and potentially poor air quality conditions through the end of the week.

- The Wood River 1 Fire may cause periods of smoky conditions for Fairbanks.
- Smoke from the Minto Flats South Fire (part of the Railbelt Complex) is drifting into Nenana, and possibly as far north as Minto.
- Several fires south of the Tanana River will cause periods of smoke for Tanana, Lake Minchumina and Manley Hot Springs.
- The Little Black One Fire will cause periods of smoke for Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon, and Central, and possibly as far north as Arctic Village.
- There are also fires burning in Canada near the Alcan border. Smoke from these fires may drift into communities near the border, such as Eagle and Northway.

For all of these locations, air quality will predominantly be **good to moderate**, with periods that are **unhealthy**. Air quality in communities near these fires may become **hazardous** at times. High pressure continues to hold in the Interior through Thursday, and the warm and dry weather will keep fires active during the day. Winds will generally be out of the south today, and switching to be light and more variable into Thursday as the weather pattern begins to change.

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

##### **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