

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

SITUATION REPORT

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY
Southeast AK #2009-02**

LOCATION(S) IMPACTED: Taiya Inlet/Klondike Highway, Haines Borough/Lynn Canal, Juneau Borough, Yakutat, Hoonah, Glacier Bay Salisbury Sound, Sitka, Admiralty Island, Wrangell, Kake, Klawock, Ketchikan, Hyder.

TIME/DATE OF UPDATE: Thursday, August 6, 6:00 PM.

VALID TIME: Valid August 6 at 6:00 PM until August 10 at 12:00 PM.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: Monday, August 10, 12:00 PM.

ADVISORY: Smoke and hazy conditions have been observed today in several communities across Southeast Alaska. Several fires in the Yukon Territory and British Columbia have been very active over the past week due to the warm and dry weather. Smoke and haze from these fires will likely continue to drift into Southeast Alaska throughout the weekend. Overall air quality will predominantly be **good to moderate**, with periods that may become **unhealthy for sensitive groups**.

Light winds are expected in Southeast Alaska on Friday and through the weekend. These light winds will keep smoke in the area, and terrain effects will influence local wind flow patterns and how the smoke disperses. It may also allow more smoke to drift into the region from Canada. The rest of the forecast for Southeast Alaska calls for mostly cloudy skies, and a chance for showers in the northern zones.

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. These fires are experiencing hot, dry weather that can lead to extensive fire activity. This dramatically increases 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 are 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:

Cape Fairweather to

Cape Suckling (017)

City & Borough of Yakutat
Yakutat

Taiya Inlet/Klondike

Hiway (018)

Skagway

Haines Boro/Lynn Canal

(019)

Haines Borough

Haines

Klukwan

Lutak

Covenant Life

Mosquito Lake

Mud Bay

Glacier Bay (020)

Gustavus

Excursion Inlet

Eastern Chichagof Island (021)

Hoonah

Game Creek

Tenakee Springs

Whitestone Logging

Camp

Salisbury Sound to Cape

Fairweather (022)

Elfin Cove

Pelican

Cape Decision to

Salisbury Sound Coast

(023)

City & Borough of Sitka

Sitka

Port Alexander

Point Baker

Port Protection

E Barnof Is/S Admiralty Is

(024)

Angoon

Cube Cove

Juneau Borough/North

Admiralty Island (025)

City & Borough of Juneau

Juneau

Douglas

Inner Channels

from Kupreanof

Is to Etolin Is (026)

Petersburg

Wrangell

Kake

Thom's Place

Hobart Bay

Kupreanof

Dixon Entrance

to Cape Decision

(027)

Craig

Klawock

Hydaburg

Edna Bay

Naukati Bay

Southern Inner Channels (028)

Ketchikan Gateway Borough

Ketchikan

Metlakatla

Saxman

Coffman Cove

Whale Pass

Thorne Bay

Hollis

Kasaan

Meyer's Chuck

Misty Fjords (029)

Hyder