

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY**  
**Interior AK #2009-10**

**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, Eastern Alaska Range.

**TIME/DATE OF UPDATE:** Monday, August 3, 12:00 PM.

**VALID TIME:** Valid August 3 at 12:00 PM until August 5 at 12:00 PM.

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** Wednesday, August 5, 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 continue to experience periods of smoke and potentially poor air quality conditions over the next few days.

- The Wood River 1 Fire is causing periods of smoky conditions for Fairbanks, and may cause visibility issues along the Parks Highway.
- Smoke from the Railbelt Complex Fire is drifting into Nenana and Healy, 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 Crazy Mountain Complex of fires is very close to Circle, and will cause periods of smoke for Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon, and Central, and possibly as far west as Venetie.
- The Big Creek fire south of the Yukon River will cause smoky conditions for Beaver, Birch Creek and possibly as far west as Stevens Village.
- Several fires are quite active in the Yukon Territory near the Alcan border. Smoke from these fires is drifting into communities near the border, such as Eagle and Northway. Visibility may be reduced at times along the Alaska Highway.

For all of these locations, air quality will predominantly be **unhealthy for sensitive groups**, with many areas reporting **unhealthy** air quality. Throughout the day today, conditions will worsen in some areas, and air quality may become **hazardous** at times in some communities near these fires. The forecast for the Interior is for sunny skies and above average temperatures for the next few days. Winds will be light and variable today, and begin to turn more easterly/southeasterly on Tuesday.

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. Hot, dry weather will 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. 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>. 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 the Air Quality in Fairbanks, visit the Fairbanks North Star Borough at <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>.

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

**Eastern Alaska Range (226)**

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