



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Media Contact: Judy Atkins, Office 907-343-6590, judy.atkins@anchorageak.gov

AIR QUALITY HEALTH ADVISORY

Wildfire smoke expected to Impact Anchorage through August 30th

Wildfire smoke from the Deshka Landing, McKinley, and Swan Lake fires is causing air quality impacts throughout the Municipality of Anchorage which can be expected to continue through Friday evening. Anchorage Health Department staff expects that concentrations of PM_{2.5} (particles less than 2.5 microns) will range from Moderate to Unhealthy from Thursday through late Friday evening. Consequently the Anchorage Health Department is issuing an air quality advisory for potential unhealthy air quality conditions through night of Friday, August 30th.

Air pollutants have a greater adverse effect on children, the elderly, and individuals with heart or lung ailments. Those who are especially sensitive to air pollution are advised to remain indoors whenever concentrations are forecast to reach or exceed levels considered unhealthy for sensitive groups (i.e. an AQI value exceeding 100). The AHD is also advising all Anchorage citizens to avoid strenuous exercise and exertion outdoors through the duration of this advisory. Please contact your health care provider if you have concerns.

The AHD will continue to monitor air quality conditions and provide air quality forecast updates via the Anchorage Air Quality Report at 907-343-4899 or by visiting www.muni.org/air.

Additional information:

Smoke concentrations are expected to be greatest during the late night Thursday and early Friday morning, as cooling air concentrates air pollutants near to the ground surface. Hourly updates of data from air quality monitoring stations in the Alaska air monitoring network, are available at <http://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Air/airtoolsweb/Aq>.

In locations where representative air quality data is not available, the following Visibility Reference Guide may be used to estimate air quality conditions resulting from wildfire smoke and its 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 current air quality conditions at air monitoring stations within the State of Alaska, Air Monitoring network, please visit the following website:

<http://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/Air/airtoolsweb/Aq>

The following table contains cautionary statements about air quality health concerns applicable to Particle Pollution.

Air Quality Category	Cautionary Statements
Good (0-50)	None
Moderate (51-100)	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150)	People with heart or lung disease, the elderly and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
Unhealthy (151-200)	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid prolonged exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged exertion.
Very Unhealthy (201-250)	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should avoid any outdoor activity; everyone else should avoid prolonged exertion.
Hazardous (251-300)	Everyone should avoid any outdoor exertion; people with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children should remain indoors.