



DEC News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DEC Extends Juneau Air Quality Advisory

July 12, 2004—Juneau--Smoke levels in the vicinity of Juneau continue to be **“unhealthy for sensitive individuals to unhealthy for all individuals,”** and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has extended its air quality advisory for the region to Friday, July 16.

Airborne levels of fine particulates (smoke) remain elevated in Juneau and over upper Lynn Canal due to wildfire activity in western Canada and continue to approach the federal air quality standard. These conditions are expected to persist over the next 3-5 days.

DEC advises individuals with respiratory illness or heart disease, the elderly and children, to minimize exposure to the smoke and limit outside exertion. All others are cautioned to limit prolonged outdoor exertion.

Although conditions remain variable across the region, the smoke level is expected to remain elevated for the next week. Air quality levels are being measured in Juneau, but are not yet exceeding the health standard. While the smoke seems to be mainly impacting Juneau at this time, this air quality advisory applies to any area in Southeast Alaska which may be impacted by smoke.

This advisory will expire on Friday, July 16, 2004, or sooner should the smoke diminish. This advisory may be extended if fire activity persists and weather does not moderate smoke impacts.

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