



DEC NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEC Issues Air Quality Advisory for Interior Alaska

August 11, 2004-Fairbanks— Airborne particulate levels are exceeding federal air quality standards in Interior Alaska today due to wildfire smoke as dry conditions return to the region. Air quality levels in Interior Alaska, north of the Alaska Range are now **Moderate to Very Unhealthy** .

Particulate concentrations from smoke may vary during the next 3 to 5 days depending on wind direction and fire activity. Air quality levels are likely to reach **Very Unhealthy to Hazardous** as long as the fires persist.

Several fires have re-intensified to impact Fairbanks, Northway, Tok and other Interior Alaska communities.

When smoke is present, children, the elderly, and those with existing respiratory or heart ailments are advised to reduce physical activity and remain indoors. Others are advised to minimize prolonged exposure to the smoke.

Air quality levels are monitored in Fairbanks. Particulate levels may be significantly higher in other areas of the region depending on wind speed and direction.

For daily information on air quality in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, please call the Borough's 24-hour Air Quality Recorder at (907) 459-1234.

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