



DEC NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEC Issues Air Quality Alert for the Kenai Peninsula

August 25, 2004—Over the past 24 hours, airborne levels of fine particulates (smoke) from the Glacier Creek wildfire near Tustumena Lake, have increased in Soldotna, Sterling, and the upper Kenai Peninsula. Air quality levels have risen to **very unhealthy levels for all persons** and are expected to remain unhealthy to hazardous for the next 24 hours. Conditions will improve with rain, but smoke may return Sunday.

DEC advises everyone with respiratory illness or heart disease, the elderly and children, to avoid outside activity. All others are cautioned to avoid outdoor activities or physical exertion.

The best course of action is to minimize one's exposure to smoke; health effects will depend on one's sensitivity and proximity to the fires. People with preexisting cardiovascular illnesses and those who are affected by the smoke should follow the advice of their physician.

This alert remains in effect until conditions improve and smoke diminishes.

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Air is not monitored on the Kenai Peninsula. This guide may be used to estimate air quality levels and potential health impacts.

<u>Visibility</u>	<u>Air Quality</u>
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