



DEC News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DEC Issues Air Quality Advisory for Juneau

July 9, 2004--The Department of Environmental Conservation has classified smoke levels in the vicinity of Juneau to be **“unhealthy for sensitive individuals to unhealthy,”** and has issued an air quality advisory.

Airborne levels of fine particulates (smoke) have been increasing in Juneau over the past 24 hours due to wildfire activity in western Canada and are approaching the federal air quality standard. These conditions are expected to persist over the next few 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, the smoke level is expected to remain elevated for the next 2 to 3 days. Air quality levels are being measured in Juneau, but are not yet exceeding the health standard. While the smoke is only 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 Tuesday, July 12, 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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