



Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority Inc.



July 28, 2023 12:00HRS

Public Service Announcement – Wild Fire Smoke Advisory – Fond Du Lac

Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority (NITHA) public health officials are advising residents in the Athabasca area to continue to take precautions as smoke from forest fires are resulting in poor air quality. The current smoke model indicates that the public health risk for poor air quality remains high in Fond Du Lac, the Far North and surrounding areas. The conditions will ebb and flow based on wind speed and direction.

Smoke concentrations will vary widely as winds, fire behavior and temperatures change. Children, seniors, and those with heart or lung diseases, such as asthma, are potentially at risk.

“Smoke can cause increased coughing, throat irritation, headaches and shortness of breath” said Dr. Nnamdi Ndubuka, Medical Health Officer for NITHA. “Monitor your symptoms and seek medical attention if you get worse, particularly if you have a pre-existing respiratory condition.”

The following measures can be implemented especially if you have lung or heart trouble, are elderly or very young:

- Remain indoors during times that there is smoke in the air;
- If you have fresh air shelters in your community, please utilize as directed by local health officials;
- Keep doors and windows closed – if cooling is needed, use a fan or air-conditioning, if available;
- Reduce exercise and activity, especially outdoors;
- Be aware that outdoor events may be postponed or cancelled if smoke levels are elevated;

If you are experiencing increasing symptoms, more than irritation in the eyes, nose or throat, please see your local health worker or call HealthLine at 811 (from land line) or 1-877-800-0002 (from cell phone) at any time.

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Media Relations
media@nitha.com
(306) 953-5000