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Air Quality Advisory

Fort McKay First Nation— The FNIHB Medical Officer of Health is issuing an Air Quality Advisory related to an unplanned industrial release and the prevailing wind direction. Residents of Fort McKay should be advised that there may be significant odour impacting the air quality in the area.

Odour conditions can vary with weather conditions and prevailing winds. If the odour conditions become more severe, even healthy individuals may experience irritation of eyes, throat and other symptoms. All residents and visitors to the area are advised to monitor their own health and adapt their activities as necessary.

Individuals experiencing nose, eye and/or throat irritation or other symptoms associated with the odours should monitor their symptoms, and may also consider the following precautions to minimize exposure:

- Reduce levels of physical activity indoors and outdoors, as necessary, to decrease exposure to the odours;
- Consider sheltering indoors with windows closed.

Seniors, children, pregnant women and individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions (such as COPD and asthma), and/or cardiovascular conditions (including angina, previous heart attack and/or congestive heart failure), may be more likely to experience irritation related to odour conditions. These individuals are reminded to take the precautions routinely recommended by their physicians when managing a change in symptoms.

Individuals who experience difficulty breathing should seek medical attention. Individuals experiencing symptoms can also call Health Link Alberta 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-866-408-5465 or 811.

Health Canada continues to work closely with the Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services, Alberta Energy Regulator and representatives from the Fort McKay First Nation to monitor the Air Quality.

Dr. Chris Sarin
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