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## Fire smoke advisory issued for High Level region and areas north of Fort McMurray

HIGH LEVEL – Due to air quality deterioration caused by forest fires burning in the Northwest Territories, Alberta Health Services is issuing a fire smoke advisory for the northern areas of AHS' North Zone, including the High Level region, areas north of Fort McMurray, and all First Nations communities in this vicinity.

Residents of, and visitors to, the above noted areas are advised to take precautions against potential health risks associated with current air conditions.

Although minor smoke conditions do not typically cause health concerns in most healthy individuals, if smoke conditions become more severe, even healthy individuals may experience irritation of eyes, throat and possibly shortness of breath.

If you can taste and/or smell smoke in the air:

- Be aware of your symptoms.
- Reduce levels of physical activity as necessary.
- Consider sheltering indoors with windows closed.

Individuals with respiratory conditions (such as COPD and asthma), and individuals with existing cardiovascular conditions (such as angina, previous heart attack and congestive heart failure), may notice a worsening of symptoms, due to fine particulate matter in the air. As such, these individuals are advised to take the precautions previously recommended by their physicians when experiencing worsening of symptoms (which may include the recommendations listed above).

Individuals experiencing symptoms can also call Health Link Alberta 24 hours a day, seven days a week, toll-free at 1.866.408.LINK (5465), to speak to a registered nurse.

Air quality can vary with weather conditions and prevailing winds. Because air quality is expected to be variable across northern Alberta, this advisory will remain in effect until further notice.

Information about the air quality in many areas of the North Zone is updated hourly on the Alberta Environment Air Quality Website: <http://environment.alberta.ca/0977.html>. Air quality information is also available by phone, toll-free, at 1-877-247-7333.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than 3.8 million adults and children living in Alberta. Its mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans.

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