

PUBLIC NOTICE

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SMOKE ALERT IN KUUJJUAQ

Kuujjuaq, June 16th, 2022 – A forest fire is burning approximately thirty kilometers south of Kuujjuaq, on the other side of Koksoak River and east of Flase River. The risk of the fire spreading has been deemed minimal by the *SOPFEU*, which is monitoring the situation, alongside the local authorities. The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) is also closely monitoring the situation in regard with the risk for the health.

Because of the winds, the community's residents may detect the odour of smoke.

However, at present, there is little risk linked to the presence of the smoke cloud. The quantity of fine particles in the air is not considered hazardous to *Kuujuamiut*.

Some individuals are more vulnerable to the effects of smoke:

- young children;
- pregnant women;
- elderly persons;
- individuals with respiratory diseases such as asthma, emphysema and chronic bronchitis, or heart disease;
- individuals performing intense work or sports activities outdoors.

The possible effects of exposure to smoke are:

- eye irritation and tearing;
- nasal discharge and irritated sinuses;
- sore throat and mild cough;
- headache.

The following symptoms are less common but more serious:

- shortness of breath;
- wheezing (including asthma attacks);
- severe cough;
- dizziness;
- chest pain;
- heart palpitations.

If you or someone you know comes down with one of these more severe symptoms, consult your CLSC.

The Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services is a public agency created in 1978 under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. It is responsible for nearly the entire territory located north of the 55th parallel in terms of the provision of health and social services for the inhabitants of the 14 communities.

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Source: Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services

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