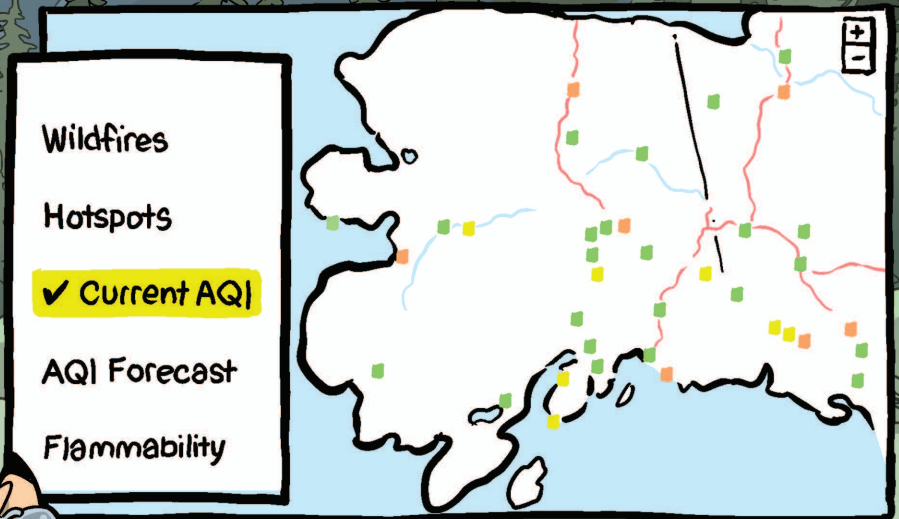


# ALASKA WILDFIRE EXPLORER TOOL

## Smoke Preparedness Stories



**Scan to  
Learn More!**



These comics were co-created by the  
**JUst Solutions to Impacts of Climate Exposures  
for Health in Alaska (JUSTICE-HIA) Project Team**  
comprised of representatives from:

Copper River Native Association

Igiugig Village Council

Louden Tribe

Native Village of Gakona

Anchorage Health Department Environmental Health Program

Alaska Department of Health Environmental Public Health Program

Alaska Fire Science Consortium

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Air & Healthy Homes Program

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Center for Climate & Health

University of Alaska Anchorage Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies

University of Alaska Fairbanks Scenarios Network for Alaska + Arctic Planning

University of Washington Collaborative on Extreme Event Resilience

### **Illustrations by:**

80% Studios

### **More information:**

For more information and to download digital copies of this comic book or posters of these comics, visit: [uaf-snap.org/project/epa-star-wfe](https://uaf-snap.org/project/epa-star-wfe)

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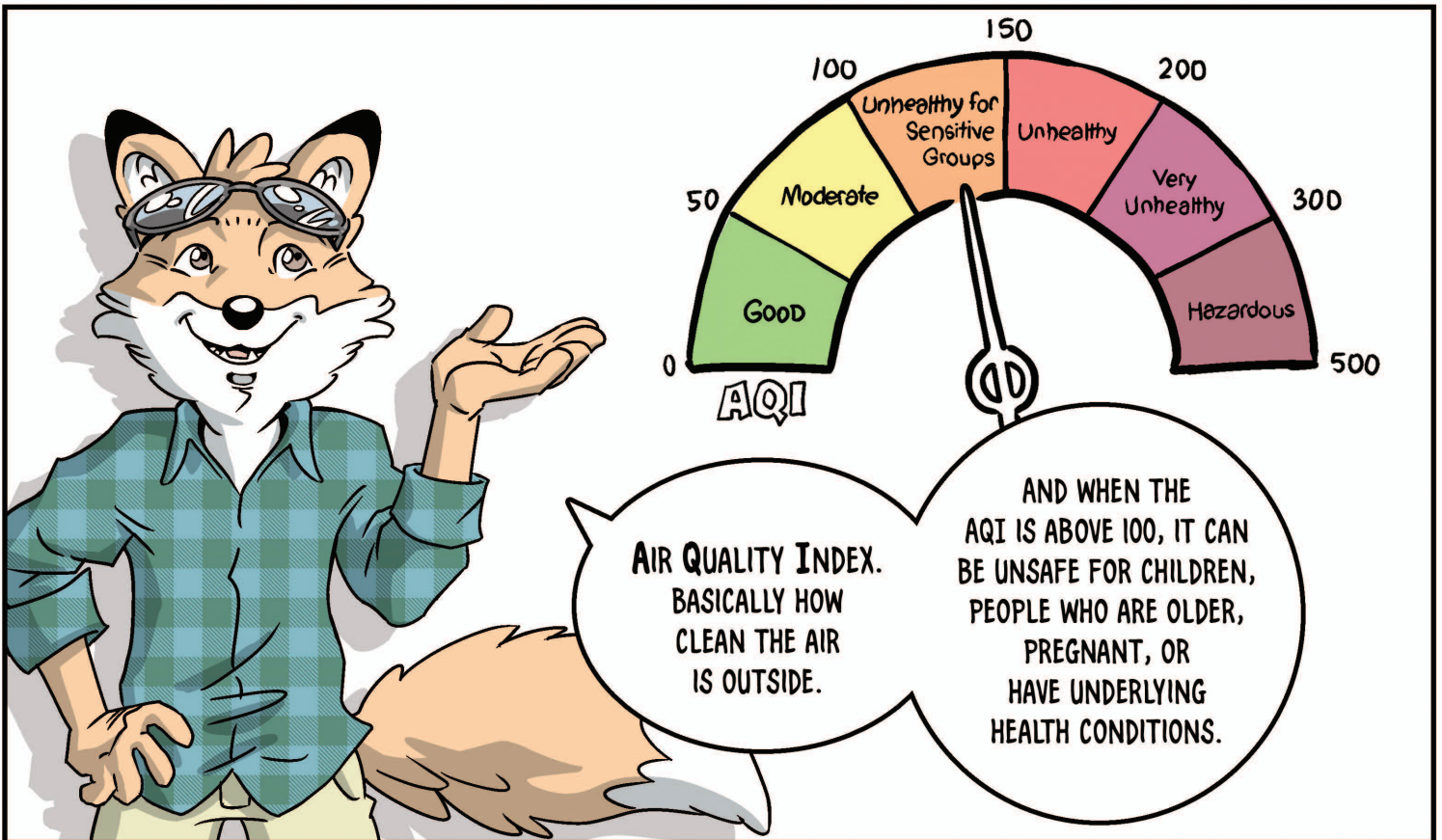
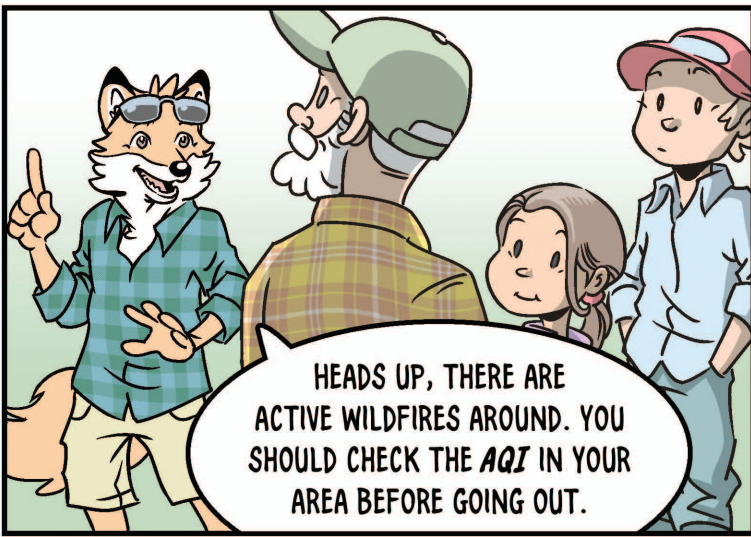
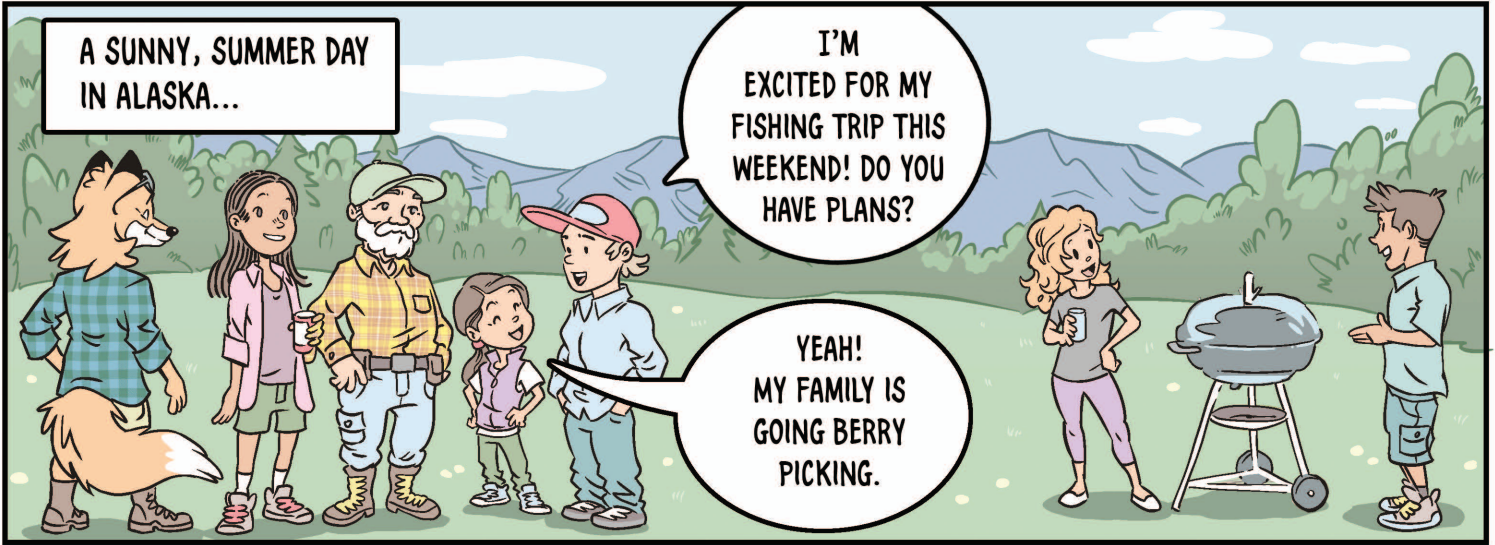
# Alaska Wildfire Explorer Tool

## *Smoke Preparedness Stories*

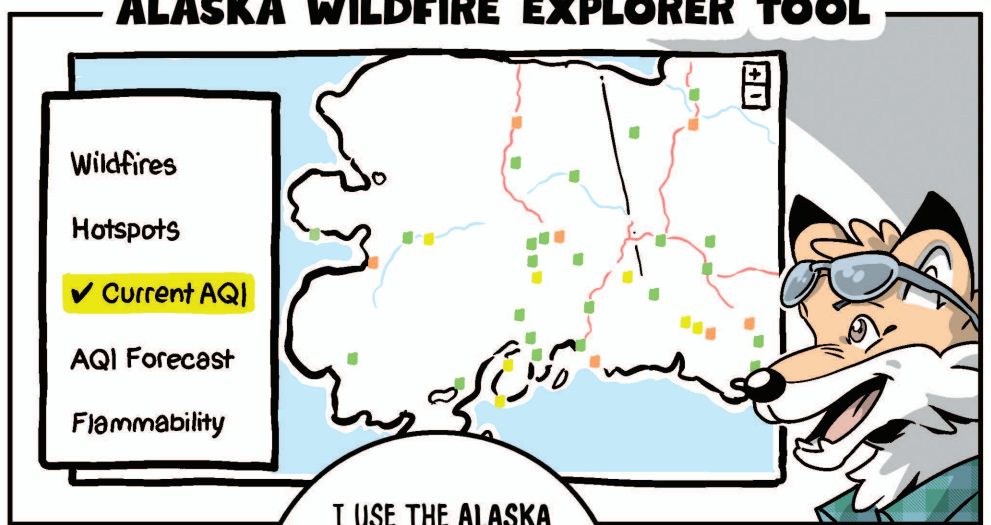
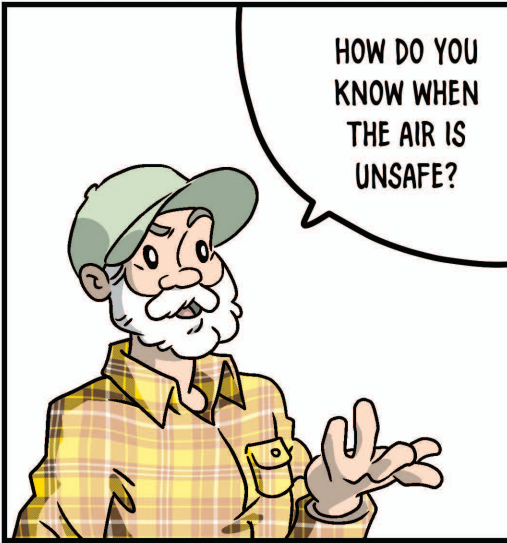
**Welcome!** Alaska's wildfire season can bring rapidly changing air quality, making it challenging to plan your day and protect your health. That's where the Alaska Wildfire Explorer tool can come in handy to check wildfire locations and current and forecasted air quality to help you make informed decisions for yourself, your family, and your community. Whether you're planning outdoor activities, managing health concerns, or responding to wildfire and smoke in your area, this tool provides the information you need, when you need it.

To help you get the most out of this tool, we've shared stories of how Alaskans can use wildfire and smoke information during common summer activities. Wildfire smoke impacts people differently, so each story highlights a unique way the tool can be used to check air quality and wildfire conditions to help you make informed choices during a wildfire smoke event. From families with young children to Elders with health concerns, and outdoor workers to healthy adults, these stories offer practical tips for using this information in your daily life.

We hope these examples help you feel confident in using the Alaska Wildfire Explorer tool to make decisions to stay healthy during wildfire season.

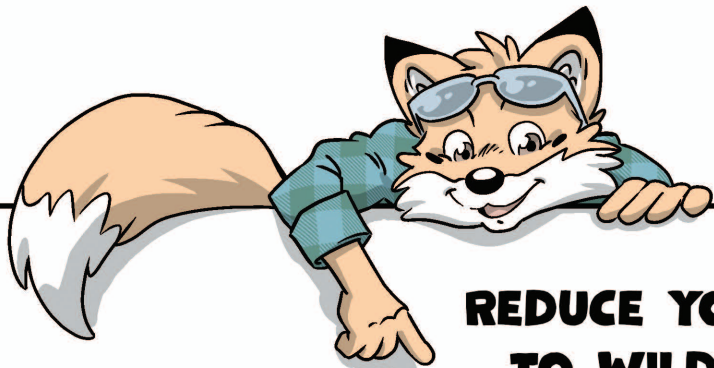


# ALASKA WILDFIRE EXPLORER TOOL



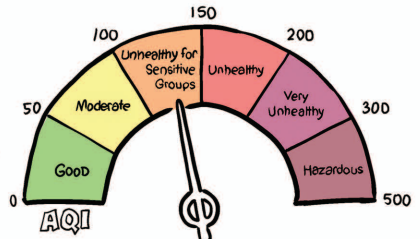
I USE THE ALASKA WILDFIRE EXPLORER TOOL. IT SHOWS ACTIVE FIRES, AND CURRENT AND FORECASTED AIR QUALITY.

YOU CAN USE IT TO LOWER YOUR RISK OF BAD HEALTH EFFECTS FROM EXPOSURE TO SMOKE LIKE RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS OR HEART ISSUES.



## REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO WILDFIRE SMOKE:

- KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE AQI!
- REDUCE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND TIME SPENT OUTDOORS
- CLOSE WINDOWS AND DOORS
- CLEAN INDOOR AIR WITH A HEPA AIR PURIFIER OR DIY AIR CLEANER
- REDUCE INDOOR AIR POLLUTION BY LIMITING ACTIVITIES LIKE SMOKING/ VAPING OR DUSTING
- RE-STOCK NEEDED MEDICINES (E.G. INHALER)
- IF YOU DO NEED TO GO OUTSIDE, USE A WELL-FITTED N95 MASK

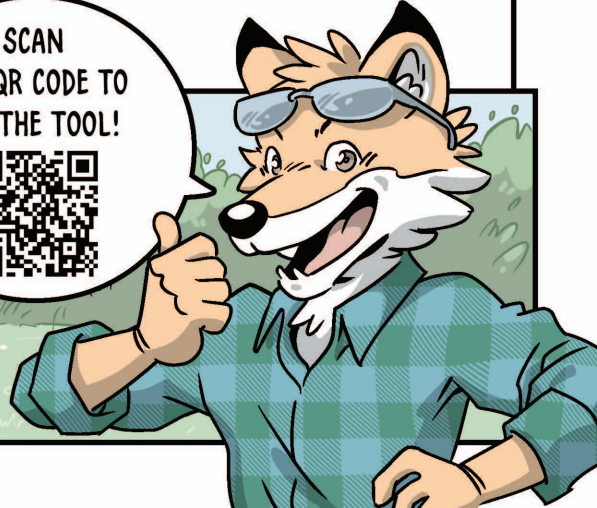


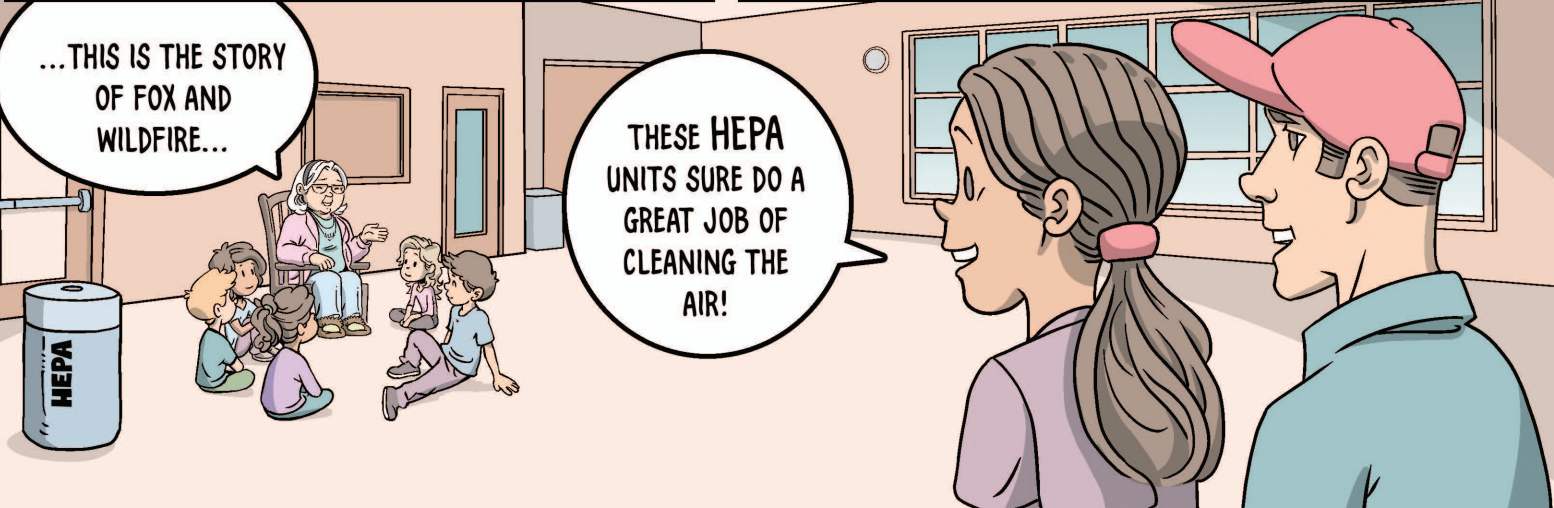
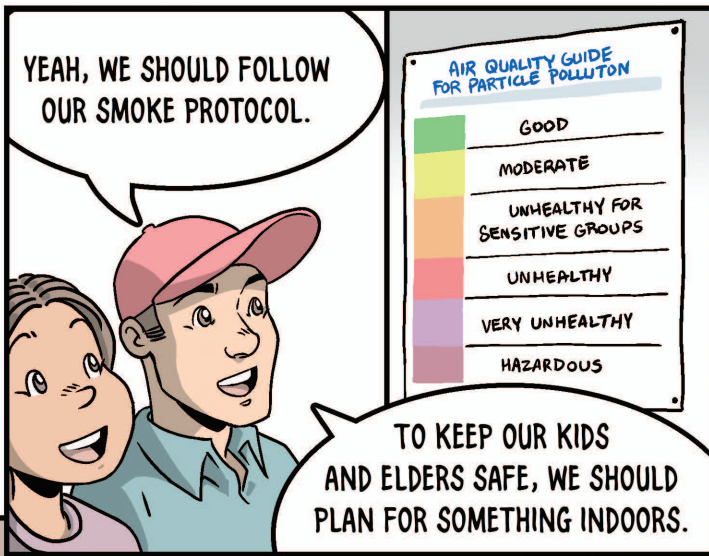
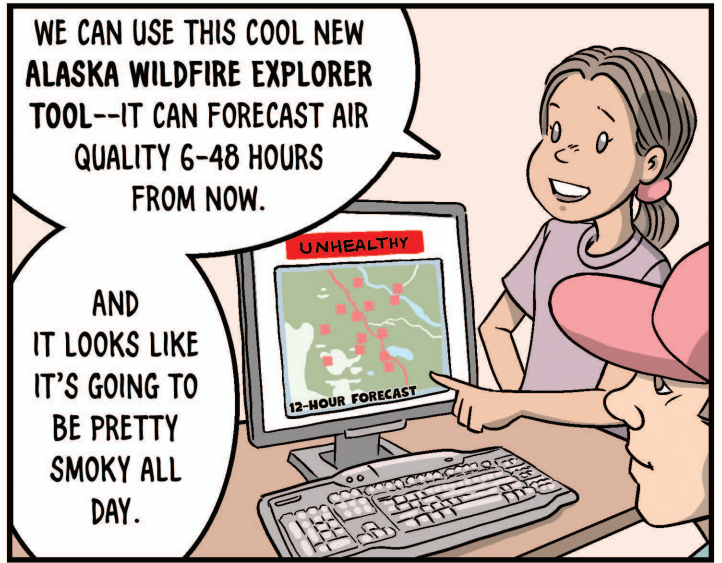
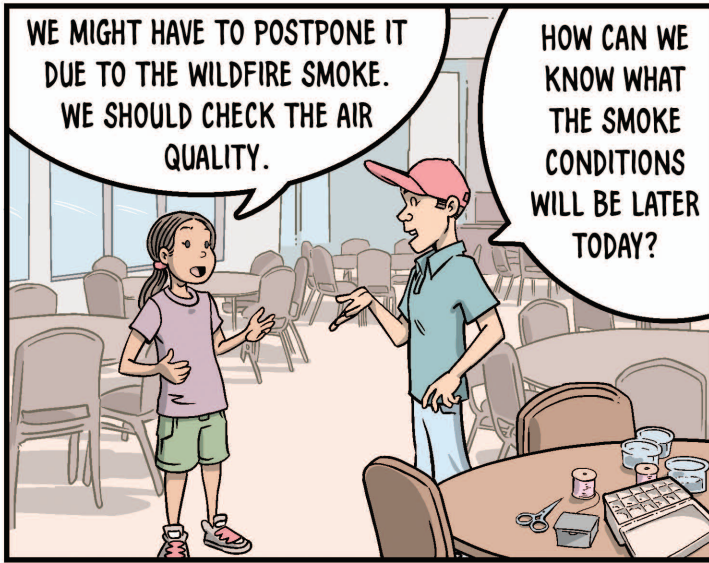
THANKS, FOX!

WE'LL MAKE SURE TO USE THE TOOL TO STAY INFORMED AND SAFE THIS WEEKEND!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO USE THE TOOL!



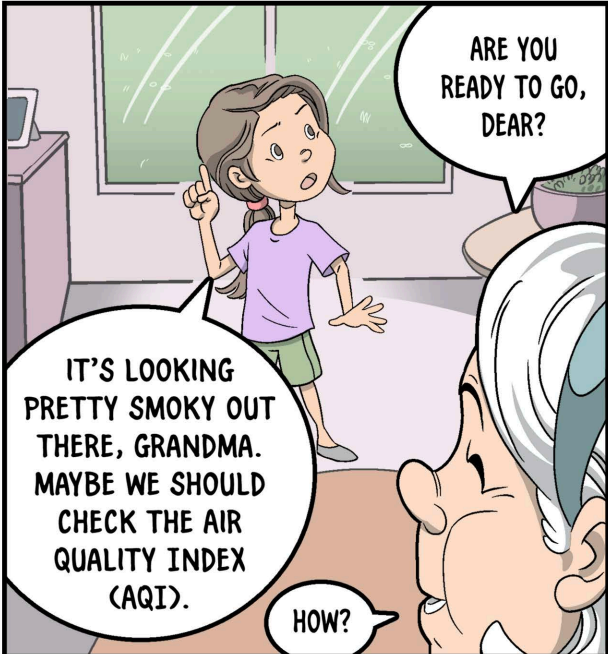




LET'S SEE...  
BASKETS, LIFE  
JACKETS, BEAR  
SPRAY--



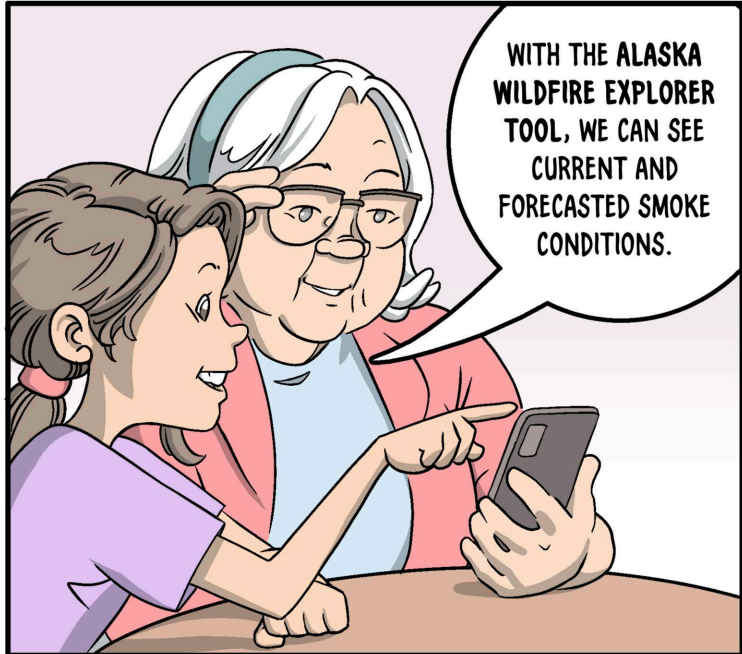
YEP,  
WE'RE ALL  
SET FOR BERRY  
PICKING!



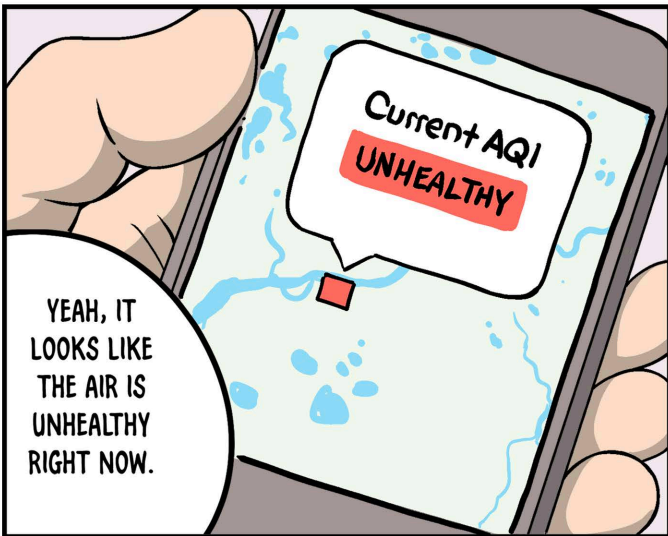
ARE YOU  
READY TO GO,  
DEAR?

IT'S LOOKING  
PRETTY SMOKY OUT  
THERE, GRANDMA.  
MAYBE WE SHOULD  
CHECK THE AIR  
QUALITY INDEX  
(AQI).

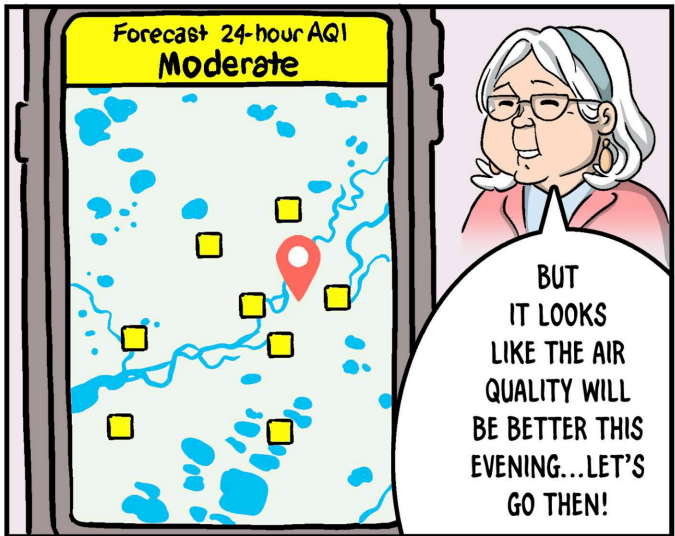
HOW?



WITH THE ALASKA  
WILDFIRE EXPLORER  
TOOL, WE CAN SEE  
CURRENT AND  
FORECASTED SMOKE  
CONDITIONS.



YEAH, IT  
LOOKS LIKE  
THE AIR IS  
UNHEALTHY  
RIGHT NOW.

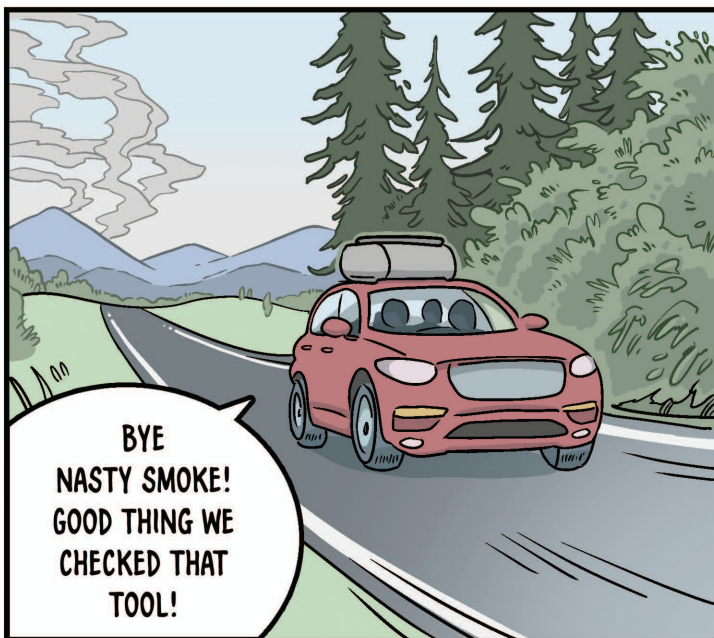
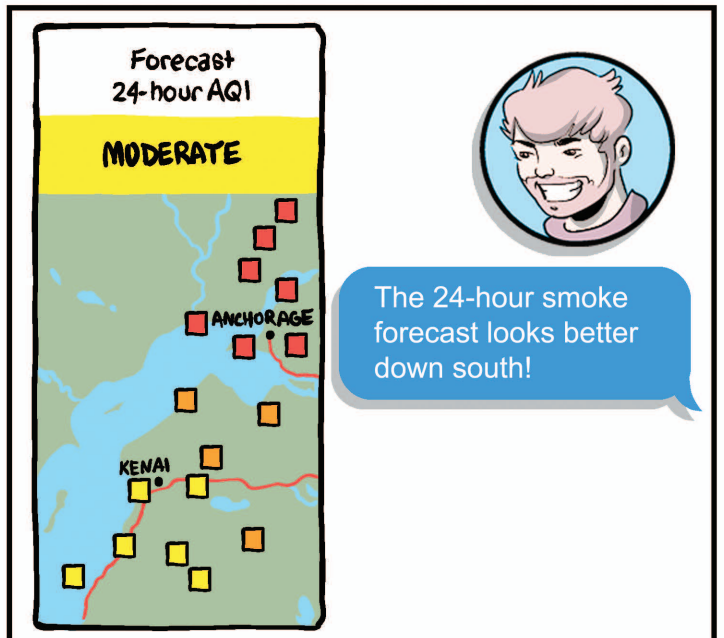
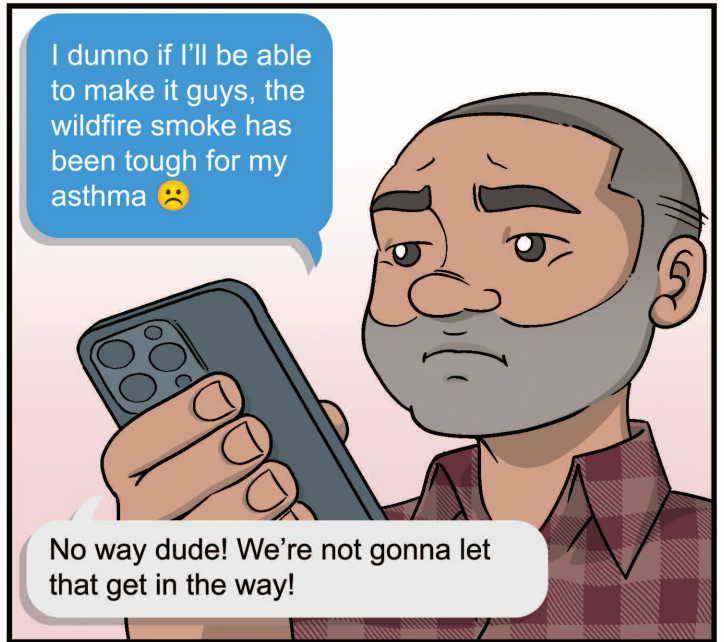


BUT  
IT LOOKS  
LIKE THE AIR  
QUALITY WILL  
BE BETTER THIS  
EVENING...LET'S  
GO THEN!



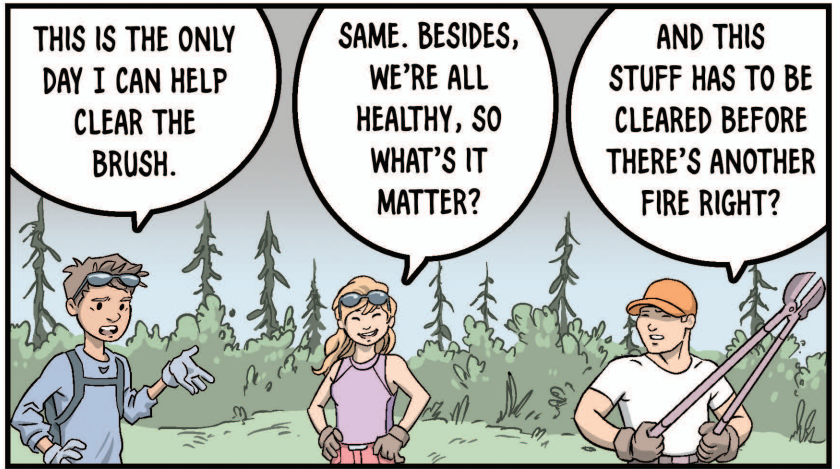
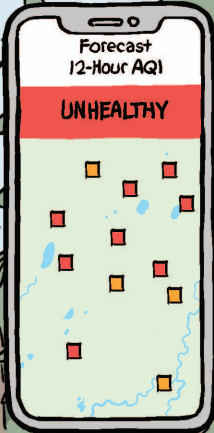
GOOD THINKING,  
GRANDMA! THE AIR  
IS MUCH BETTER  
NOW.

GRANDMA  
ALWAYS KNOWS  
BEST!





HATE TO SAY IT GUYS, BUT THE ALASKA WILDFIRE EXPLORER TOOL SAYS THE AIR QUALITY ISN'T LOOKING GREAT TODAY, WE MAY HAVE TO RESCHEDULE OUR WORK.



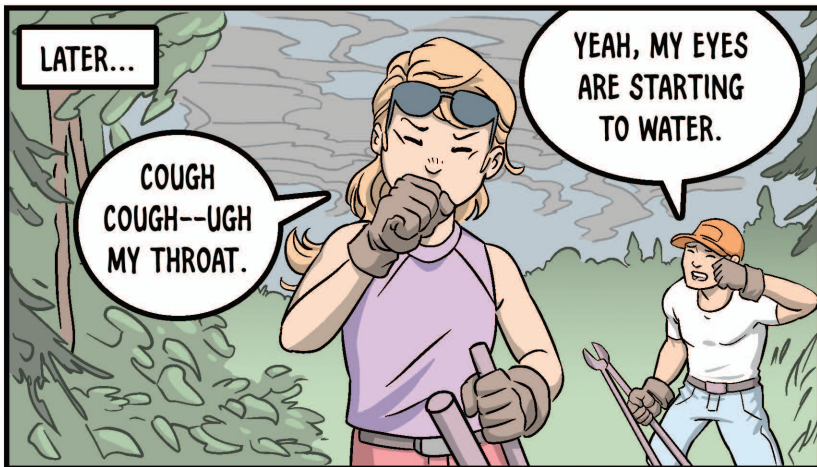
THIS IS THE ONLY DAY I CAN HELP CLEAR THE BRUSH.

SAME. BESIDES, WE'RE ALL HEALTHY, SO WHAT'S IT MATTER?

AND THIS STUFF HAS TO BE CLEARED BEFORE THERE'S ANOTHER FIRE RIGHT?



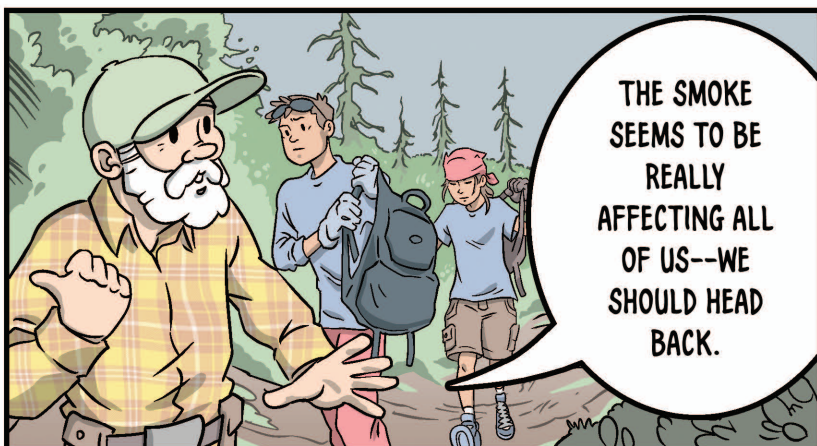
OK--LET'S CONTINUE, BUT WE SHOULD KEEP AN EYE ON HOW WE'RE FEELING WITH THE SMOKE. WE ALSO HAVE N95 MASKS IF IT DOES GET WORSE.



LATER...

COUGH COUGH--UGH MY THROAT.

YEAH, MY EYES ARE STARTING TO WATER.



THE SMOKE SEEMS TO BE REALLY AFFECTING ALL OF US--WE SHOULD HEAD BACK.



MAKE SURE YOUR N95 MASK IS SECURE. THEY CAN HELP REDUCE OUR EXPOSURE TO THE SMOKE.

I GUESS THE TOOL WAS RIGHT!

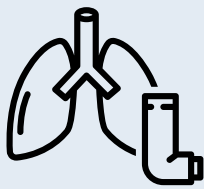
Visit [uaf-snap.org/project/epa-star-wfe](https://uaf-snap.org/project/epa-star-wfe)  
for additional resources on...



Information about wildfire smoke, health,  
and how to prepare for fire season.



Best practices and guidance on  
wildfire smoke and children's health.



Wildfire-specific considerations for  
those with respiratory conditions.



Guidance to properly fit respirators.

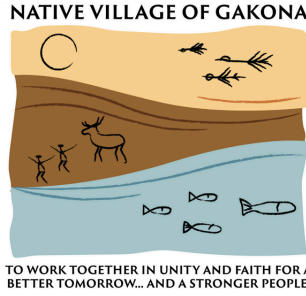
**Additional information on wildfire, smoke, and health in Alaska  
can be accessed from:**

- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
- Alaska Department of Health
- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC)

# What is the U.S. Air Quality Index (AQI)?

## AQI for Ozone and Particle Pollution

AQI Level	Description of Air Quality
<b>Good (0 to 50)</b>	<b>Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.</b>
<b>Moderate (51 to 100)</b>	<b>Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.</b>
<b>Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101 to 150)</b>	<b>Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.</b>
<b>Unhealthy (151 to 200)</b>	<b>Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.</b>
<b>Very Unhealthy (201 to 300)</b>	<b>Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.</b>
<b>Hazardous (301+)</b>	<b>Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.</b>



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