

***Climate and Health E-News***

***Raising Awareness about Climate Change and Public Health in the Circumpolar North***

***No. 120, July 6, 2012***

**Circumpolar Climate Events Map** Click [here](#) to view this month's Google map. You can also post a map comment [here](#), or visit our [archive](#) back to June 2009.

**NOAA publishes new sea mammal illness fact sheet** *June 25, 2012.* So far this year subsistence communities have documented over 40 seals with clinical signs of the illness causing the "Northern Pinnipeds Unusual Mortality Event". The illness was also recorded in walrus in 2011 and there were similar symptoms this year in 23 polar bears from the Barrow area. There has been no evidence of the illness in people. Testing continues but the cause remains a mystery. [NOAA](#)

**Pondering a link between forest fires and climate change** *June 28, 2012.* As record temperatures and wildfires scorch the western United States, we have begun to get a picture of the extreme weather and fires that are predicted to worsen in decades ahead. According to forest ecologist Steven Running, "what scares the firefighters is there are still two to three months of summer to go." [New York Times](#)

**Western Alaska caribou herd continues to decline** *July 4, 2012.* The latest population survey estimates the herd is down by 325,000 animals. According to state biologist Jim Dau, it is hard to know what's driving the reduction, but he has some ideas, including winter rain. [APRN](#)

**Warming favors proliferation of toxins in water** *July 3, 2012.* Cyanobacteria are microorganisms that live in water. Blooms are occurring in lakes, reservoirs and rivers all over the world, and in estuaries and seas. The number of cyanobacteria have increased in recent decades from global warming, raising concerns about toxins which can affect human and animal health. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Video of the Week: Wildfires, Beetles and Climate Change** *November 22, 2011.* Since the 1990s, the infestation of [spruce bark beetle](#) in Alaska has impacted over 6 million acres of forest. Now drought and heat stressed forests in the western United States are experiencing the devastating mountain pine beetle infestation and record wildfires. This 4 minute Time video explores the relationship between wildfires, beetles and climate in Washington State. [YouTube](#)

Climate and Health E-News is received around the circumpolar north by people who are interested in climate change impacts and public health. For back issues click [here](#). To subscribe or unsubscribe, please click [here](#).

*Regards – Mike*

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***Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities***