

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

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

***No. 121, July 12, 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.

**Extreme heat raises climate change questions, concerns – July 5, 2012.** The heat wave baking much of the country has prompted many people to ask: is this due to climate change? Last winter was the fourth-warmest on record in the U.S. and this spring was the warmest since records began in 1895. Says Jonathan Patz of UW-Madison, “of all the natural disasters in the U.S, heat waves have caused the most mortality.” [ScienceDaily](#)

**Record-breaking expanse of drought across U.S. July 5, 2012.** Analysis of the latest drought monitor data revealed that 46.84 percent of the nation's land area (contiguous U.S) is in various stages of drought. So far only 8.64 percent of the country is in extreme drought indicating crop losses and water shortages. It is early in the season though, the potential further drought development is something that the U.S Drought Monitor program will be watching. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Smoke from Siberia brings with it higher ozone levels in BC - July 10, 2012.** Smoke lingering over much of British Columbia has pushed ozone levels in part of the province to never-before-seen numbers. Levels above 82 parts per billion were causing concerns because of potential health effects for people with respiratory problems. The infernos have consumed thousands of hectares of forest in southern Siberia. [Vancouver Sun](#)

**Heat waves negatively affect mental health July 6, 2012.** Experts say tempers flare and suicide rates increase during hot, steamy summer months. Dr. Len Cortese said it's common for psychiatric beds to fill up during heat waves. “The brain helps us keep our anxiety under control so [during heat] people have difficulty with anxiety.” [CBC](#)

**Video of the Week: Smoke from Siberia fires reach North America. June 11, 2012.** Massive wildfires burning in Siberia recently sent smoke across the Pacific Ocean and into the U.S. and Canada. This two minute video describes the use of NASA satellite images to track aerosols from the fires across the planet. [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***