

## Climate and Health E-News

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

No. 142, December 21, 2012

**Circumpolar Climate Events Map** - Click [here](#) for this month's map or visit our [archive](#).

**LEO Network Map** – Click [here](#) for this month's map or visit our [archive](#).

**Climate change causes grizzly conflicts in Arctic** *December 10, 2012.* Climate change is pushing tundra grizzlies into Arctic communities where they would not normally be seen, raising issues about human safety and conservation of the bears. Vincent L'Héroult, a biologist and PhD student at the University of Quebec in Rimouski, said grizzlies are expanding their range in a northeasterly direction. "There is more and more conflict with the local communities," L'Héroult said in an interview. "Elders say they never saw grizzlies in their childhood. People are pretty concerned about this new phenomenon." [Vancouver Sun](#)

**Nunatsiavut government asks people to stop the caribou hunt** *December 15, 2012.* Environment and Conservation Minister Tom Hedderson accounted last week that the George River caribou population is at an all-time low of 22,000. In the 1990's, the herd was somewhere around half a million. "This herd is in serious decline and we need to do what we have to do to protect the herd so that it's around for future generations." [CBC](#)

**November Cold, Lack of Snow Deepens Frost Line.** *December 17, 2012.* The foot and a half of snow that fell in Fairbanks last week probably won't do too much to protect underground sewer and water pipes from freezing. "I'm afraid it's too late," Ken Born, owner of Homestead Pumping and Thawing in North Pole, said. "I'm pretty sure the damage has been done." The lack of snow in October and November, combined with the two-week cold snap that preceded the big dump of snow, has already driven the frost line down deeper than it normally is. [Fairbanks Daily News-Miner](#)

**Toxic winter air threatens health of Alaska's Golden Heart City** *December 20, 2012.* Longtime Fairbanks-area resident Suzanne Fenner doesn't have to check the borough's air quality monitoring website to see whether or not pollution is high. She just looks out the front door. When she sees smoke rolling through, she knows she'll be coughing soon enough. On Tuesday, a monitor in North Pole had a reading of over 260 micrograms. The levels of pollution are so high, that at certain points this winter, it's been unofficially considered some of the worst in the country. [Alaska Dispatch](#)

**Want to know your chances for having a white Christmas** *December 18, 2012* Climatologists from Cornell University have examined 50 years of weather data and prepared a series of [graphs](#) that show the chances for a white Christmas and a dry New Year's Eve for various cities throughout the United States. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Media of the Week: An amazing photo tour of Mt. Everest.** Photographer David Breashears has stitched together 400-plus images into one giant, zoomable, interactive image containing more than a billion pixels. [NPR](#)

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

*Regards – Mike*

Michael Brubaker

[Center for Climate and Health](#)

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

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