

Climate and Health E-News

Raising Awareness about Climate Change and Public Health in Circumpolar North

No. 161, May 23, 2013

Map Update for Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Spruce bark beetles in Kake, Alaska, a record snowfall and late spring in Anchorage, and eruption of the Pavlov Volcano causes ash fall in Sand Point Alaska. [ANTHC](#) You can also visit our [archives](#) or follow LEO on [Facebook](#)

Map Update of Circumpolar Climate Events *Alaska:* Yukon flood ice damages town of Circle and threatens other communities, dangerous ice in Barrow, and Anchorage has longest winter in recorded history. In *Canada:* YT government begins registration of Yukon flood victims and a crash of Baffin Island's caribou is reported in Nunuvut; In *Norway:* warm weather and rain cause flooding, and delayed spring results in mass honey bee die-off. [ANTHC](#) Visit our map [archive](#).

Tornados and global warming: is there a connection? May 22, 2013. Linking any particular weather event to climate change is always tricky, because weather is inherently random. But weather patterns can speak to a warming planet. Scientists detect that extreme rain events, for instance, are already happening more often than they used to, and that a warmer atmosphere with more water vapor in it is making such events more likely. Tornadoes are different. Global warming may well end up making them more frequent or intense, as our intuition would tell us. But it might also actually suppress them—the science just isn't clear yet. [National Geographic](#)

No Open Water Makes for Late Spring Whaling May 17, 2013. Poor weather and lack of open water have pushed spring whaling back for most crews on the Arctic Slope. Western crews are having some success as the spring season gets underway and whalers seek to fulfill their strike quotas and land bowhead migrating north for their summer season in the Arctic. The St. Lawrence Island community of Savoonga has landed four whales and lost two. Point Hope and Gambell have also started their spring season. [The Arctic Sounder](#)

Wacky weather causing one of Interior Alaska's craziest bird migrations May 16, 2013. Birds of all kinds are arriving in dizzying numbers, and many long-time birders say they have never seen such a concentrated wave of migrating birds in the Tanana Valley. Bud Johnson in Tok estimates there were 100,000 sparrows descending on that area Tuesday. "The ground is just in constant movement and the singing (mostly from the white-crowned sparrows) is insane." Among bird-watchers, there is a phenomenon called "fallout," when a large number of migrating birds make landfall because they run into storm systems. [Fairbanks Daily News Miner](#)

Finland's greenhouse gas emissions at 22 year low May 16, 2013 Preliminary data from Statistics Finland indicates that the country's total greenhouse gas emissions have fallen dramatically, and last year were at their lowest level since 1990. This was mainly due to reduced consumption of coal and peat and increased net imports of electricity. [Ule](#)

Video of the Week – Ice dam and flooding in Circle Alaska On Sunday May 19, 2013, an ice dam during break-up of the Yukon River caused flooding over a 25' river wall, sending huge ice blocks into the village of Circle. Fifteen homes were flooded and as documented in this 3 minute video by Sam Harrel, ice pushed some of the homes off their foundations. [Fairbanks Daily News Miner](#)

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, click [here](#).

Regards – Mike

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Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities