



Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network Map – View our January map to see recent posts from Local Environmental Observers, including record high temperatures, lack of snow and ice, and unusual environmental events across Alaska. See posts from Shaktoolik, Bethel, Nanwalek, Unalakleet, and St. Michael. [ANTHC](#) Visit our [archives](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#)

Climate Events in the Circumpolar North - View our February map to see media reports from the circumpolar north. Dry and dusty in Anchorage Alaska; snow storm fatigue in Eastern Canada; a mild winter in Iceland; winter wildfires in Norway, and an epic ski season (hurray!) for Scotland. [ANTHC](#)

Valdez, no stranger to disaster, sees avalanche as a wonder February 1, 2014. Michelle Theriault-Boots - The avalanche, at a spot on the Richardson Highway known as a perfect incubator for avalanche conditions, happened last Saturday. It quickly became obvious that it was not one of the typical Thompson Pass slides that close the highway for a couple hours from time to time each winter. A monster debris field 100 feet tall and more than 1,000 feet long. Its force and size dammed the Lowe River, creating a half-mile-long lake. People in town dubbed it "Damalanche." [Anchorage Daily News](#)

Arctic lakes' ice season shrinking February 3, 2014. The ice season in Arctic lakes is 24 days shorter than 50 years ago and peak ice thickness has thinned significantly, say scientists at the University of Waterloo. Researchers used satellite radar imagery from the European Space Agency of more than 400 lakes located in Alaska's North Slope to examine ice thickness. [ScienceDaily](#)

Climate change threatens massive increase in annual coastal damage February 4, 2014. New research predicts that coastal regions may face massive increases in damages from storm surge flooding over the course of the 21st century. According to the study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, global average storm surge damages could increase from about \$10-\$40 billion per year today to up to \$100,000 billion per year by the end of century, if no adaptation action is taken. [ScienceDaily](#)

Greenland's fastest glacier reaches record speeds February 3, 2014. Jakobshavn Glacier is moving ice from the Greenland ice sheet into the ocean at a speed that appears to be the fastest ever recorded. "We are now seeing summer speeds more than 4 times what they were in the 1990s on a glacier which at that time was believed to be one of the fastest, if not the fastest, glacier in Greenland," says Ian Joughin, a researcher at the Polar Science Center, University of Washington and lead-author of the study. [ScienceDaily](#)

Video of the Week – Too close to a calving glacier January 19, 2013 Steve Leonard and Arctic expert Jason Roberts on an expedition looking for Polar bears, have some engine trouble with their skiff, and get a little too close to a calving glacier in Greenland. The clip is from the program, Incredible Journeys BBC. [YouTube](#)

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

Regards – Mike

Michael Brubaker
[Center for Climate and Health](#)
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities