

Climate Events in the Circumpolar North - View our [August map](#) to see news reports from across the circumpolar north. See our map archive [here](#).

Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network – August has been very quiet as far as posts are concerned but we have a new post on our [June map](#) about earthquake activity near Amchitka Island and an update on our [July map](#) about a rare loon visit in Teller Alaska. For new observations from LEO Network members including: interesting insects in Nome and Anchorage, an unusual catch in Golovin, early season berries for Jakalof Bay and King Cove, a brilliant bloom of yellow flowers in Togiak, a visiting loon in Teller, midwinter snow in Wasilla, and awash in crab larvae in Port Graham. [ANTHC](#) Visit our map [archive](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#).

ANTHC program to monitor toxicity in subsistence foods. August 12, 2014. *Anna Rose MacArthur* - Researchers theorize that contaminants and pathogens may be escalating in the Arctic. For the first time in the United States, a technology traditionally used on humans is testing possible widespread threats to food security. The technology is filter paper, and it is used to collect blood samples. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium is distributing the paper to subsistence hunters to collect blood specimens from subsistence mammals. [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

Enough to fill a thimble. Northwest Territory summer driest in 40 years August 4, 2014. A senior climatologist with Environment Canada says June and July in the Northwest Territories were the driest in 40 years — and August isn't expected to get much better. Warm days have meant little rain for the territory. Phillips says there were just four days of rain in June and July combined, just "enough to fill a thimble." Conditions have made the forest fire season in the territory the worst in a generation, causing major smoke and air quality concerns, as well as intermittent road closures and evacuations. [CBC](#)

Cost of forest fires in Sweden in the hundreds of millions. August 13, 2014. The forest fire in Västmanland country is now largely under control after burning for nearly two weeks. But the fire zone covered some 15,000 hectares of forested land, destroying 25 structures and forcing more than 1,000 people to evacuate. Insurer Länsförsäkringar, which has many customers in the fire area, said claims of will be somewhere between SEK 200 and 250 million. [Radio Sweden](#)

'There's a nanuq outside!': Kaktovik woman chases polar bear from tent August 12, 2014. *Kyle Hopkins* – Members of a North Slope whaling family, Rexford and her 81-year-old mother had spent the night at a fish camp outside the Inupiat village of Kaktovik. One sock on, one sock off, something made Marie look over her shoulder. That's when she saw the outline of a paw pressed against the thick canvas tent, said Marie's daughter, Flora Rexford, recounting the scene. A polar bear was trying to shove and nose its way inside. [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

Inland Nunavut community lands rare freshwater beluga August 8, 2014. *Sarah Rogers* - In any other Nunavut community, news (of a beluga) would be met with mild interest, but in Baker Lake – the territory's only inland community, a beluga whale is almost unheard of. Moments later, Tapatai and Owingayak had assembled a hunting crew at the shore, while they scrambled to find the right tools. [Nunatsiq Online](#)

Video of the Week - Three year old girl and puppy survive 11 day on Siberian taiga – August 11, 2014. ([Siberia Times](#)) – This video documents the rescue of a three year old girl in the remote Sakha Republic of Russia who was found eleven days after becoming lost thanks to the efforts of rescuers and her puppy. Karina Chikitova made a nest in the tall grass, ate berries, and held her dog at night to stay warm. But she was not found until her puppy wandered home and then helped searchers to find her hiding place. [YouTube](#)

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