

Climate and Health E-News

Raising Awareness and Connecting People in the Interest of Public Health

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Six Countries Join Russian Firefighters – Moscow News (August 5, 2010) Firefighters battling the worst blazes that Russia has seen in decades got a welcome boost Thursday when aircraft, fire trucks and personnel arrived to help from Italy and five former Soviet republics. The fire death toll in Russia rose to 50. About 600 fires were burning countrywide Thursday. The number of people left homeless by wildfires has topped 3,500. The heavy smog that blanketed Moscow cleared on Thursday, but air pollution will remain high for the next few days. Record-setting high temperatures are expected to remain until at least Aug. 10 and may top 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) over the weekend. [Read Article](#) ***E-News Note: to see a NASA satellite image of the fires in Eastern Siberia (near Alaska), click on the [attached image](#).***

Best hope for saving Arctic sea ice is cutting soot emissions, say researchers ScienceDaily (July 30, 2010) - soot emissions kill more than 1.5 million people prematurely worldwide each year, and afflicts millions more with respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease and asthma. It is also the second leading cause of green house gases. Soot from the burning of fossil fuels including diesel, coal, gasoline, jet fuel -- and from solid biofuels, such as wood contributes far more to global warming than has been thought, according to a new study. But, unlike carbon dioxide, soot lingers only a few weeks in the atmosphere, so cutting emissions could have a significant and rapid impact on the climate. Controlling it may be the only option for saving the Arctic sea ice before it all melts. [Read Article](#)

Forest Service Using “Roadmap” to Help Adapt to Climate Change - Alaska Public Radio Network APRN (August 3, 2010) The US Forest Service is bracing for the mounting affects of climate change, and Alaska is at the forefront of its efforts to adapt. The agency came out with a “national roadmap for responding to climate change” last month, complete with a [five-year plan](#) to make forests more resilient. Beth Pendleton, the regional forester for Alaska based in Juneau, says while some forests are already taking stock of changes, the Roadmap gets everyone on the same page. Pendleton says employees at Alaska’s two national forests – the Tongass and the Chugach – have already been documenting the effects climate change. She says the first step is assessing what changes are taking place – and what the long-term impacts will be. Then they’ll have to prioritize how they should respond to the change that’s occurring. The Forest Service’s climate change advisor in Washington, Dr. David Cleaves, says Alaska faces particular problems: Cleaves says changes in the types of trees means changes to the forest as a whole. [Download Podcast](#)

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Regards, Mike

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