

***Alaska Climate and Health E-News***  
***Raising Awareness about Climate Change and Public Health***  
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**Peat wildfire smoke linked to heart failure risk** *June 29, 2011* In the summer of 2008, a lightning strike started a wildfire in eastern North Carolina that burned for weeks. An EPA study found an increase in emergency department visits for a variety of respiratory ailments and a 37% increase in visits for people with symptoms of heart failure. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Rainwater harvest study finds roofing materials differ in water quality** *June 15, 2011* A study recently published in *Water Research* tested the quality of rainwater harvested from five different roof types. Metal and concrete tile produced the best quality for domestic use while rainwater from asphalt fiberglass shingle roofs contained high levels of dissolved organic carbon (DOC). If mixed with chlorine the high DOC water can produce byproducts that can be harmful. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Heavy snowfall causes fungus that can harm tundra** *June 20, 2011* Heavy and prolonged snowfall can create conditions that encourage fungal growth. A new study published in *Nature Climate Change* shows that the fungus *Arwidssonia empetri* can cause rapid fungal growth and result in the die-off of tundra plants. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Melting Northwest Passage lets Pacific whales migrate to Atlantic** *June 27, 2011* When a 13-meter grey whale was spotted off the coast of Israel, scientists came to a startling conclusion, it must have passed through the normally ice bound Northwest Passage. It is an indication of the speed of change that is taking place in our world and raises important questions about the future of the oceans. [Associate Press](#)

**Video – Adapting to Climate Change in Alaska** Alaskans from Unalakleet to Kenai are witnessing changes to their environment. Erosion, invasive species, forest fires, flooding, thawing permafrost, melting ice and shifting animal habitats are some of the changes taking place. This 17 minute video describes steps being taken by some communities to adapt in the face of climate change. [Sea Grant](#)

**Alaska Climate Events Map** – Visit our [Google Map](#) to see and read about the wildfires, algae blooms, salmon fishery closures and other incidents that have occurred around Alaska during the past month.

*Climate and Health E-News* is received around the circumpolar north by people who are interested in climate impacts on health. For back issues or to join the mailing list, visit our [website](#). Please click following link if you would like to [subscribe or unsubscribe](#).

*Regards - Mike*

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