



APRIL 3, 2008

HEALTH ADVISORY

State Health Department Advises That Fire Near Mandan May Increase Risk of Respiratory Problems

In response to the fire burning at Johnson's Wrecking near Mandan, N.D., the North Dakota Department of Health is issuing the following health advisory for people who have respiratory conditions:

- People who have respiratory conditions – such as asthma, emphysema or bronchitis – should stay inside, close their windows, and shut off their furnaces until the smoky haze clears.
- People who are experiencing symptoms of respiratory distress should seek medical care immediately.
- Anyone who is concerned about the smoke may choose to stay indoors, as well.

Small pieces of ash and soot (particulate matter) in the air that can be breathed into the lungs is the main health concern connected with the fire at this time.

Residents of the Mandan and Bismarck areas should continue to monitor local news for future advisories from the Department of Health.

The North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Disease Control will monitor the incidence of respiratory disease and respiratory events over the next several weeks through emergency room based syndromic surveillance processes currently in place.

For more information, contact the Division of Disease Control at 701.328.2378.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.
- Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

This message is being sent to public health units, clinics, hospitals and physicians in Bismarck and Mandan