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Hazardous Driving Conditions on Parks Highway

(PARKS HIGHWAY, Alaska) – Alaska State Troopers and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities discourage motorists from traveling on the Parks Highway south of Fairbanks unless absolutely necessary. Due to wildfires in the Interior, visibility is exceptionally poor along multiple stretches of roadway.

If you must travel in the Interior, consider utilizing the Richardson Highway. Motorists currently on the Parks are traveling at 20 miles per hour on many stretches of road with their headlights and flashers on. In some locations, visibility is significantly diminished.

DOT&PF is working on getting flashing signs out on the highway to further caution drivers of the conditions. In some areas, the speed limit will be reduced to 35 miles per hour due to the thick smoke.

Troopers equate the current driving conditions on the Parks Highway to severe winter driving conditions. Motorists should use extreme caution.

There are areas along the Parks Highway where fire crews and fire fighting equipment are staged. Having your headlights on will also make you more visible to them. Please keep their safety in mind as you are passing them.

To receive updated information on stretches of road affected by the smoke check the 511 website at <http://511.alaska.gov/> or call 5-1-1 from any phone in Alaska. Motorists should always check road conditions prior to venturing out on Alaska's highways.

To receive up-to-date information on fires in the interior, contact the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center at 907-356-5511. Keep in mind that there are multiple wildfires burning in the interior and conditions change quickly.