

FOREST FIRES: POOR AIR QUALITY AND REDUCED VISIBILITY IN SCHEFFERVILLE, FERMONT AND RIVIÈRE MANICOUAGAN

Baie-Comeau, July 12, 2023 – Due to the presence of forest fires in Quebec, there may be large amounts of smoke intermittently until Thursday on the Manicouagan River territory and until Friday in Schefferville and Fermont.

During this period, air quality may be poor and visibility could be reduced in some places. The smoke plume may have impacts on health, especially for those at risk, including children, pregnant women, seniors, people with asthma, people with heart problems and people who already have respiratory diseases such as emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

The Direction de santé publique de la Côte-Nord recommends that people in these areas reduce their exposure to the smoke from forest fires by:

- Staying indoors;
- Closing the windows of homes and living environments, including childcare services, schools and workplaces;
- Limiting air exchange with the outdoors, for example by turning off the air exchange system or using recirculation mode;
- Limiting your outdoor activities, especially if they cause fatigue or shortness of breath;
- Avoiding any intense physical activity outdoors.

If some discomfort persists or increases despite these measures, it is advisable to consult Info-santé at 811. In case of emergency, call 911.

We are continuously monitoring air quality, and updates will be issued as required.

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