

September/October

Port Graham Environmental News

Brought to you by:

Naomi McMullen Env. Coordinator & Rick Yeaton Env. Technician

C a m ' a i P a l u w i k !



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Happy Halloween!

Please remember to take all PLASTIC and STYROFOAM off boxes before you throw them in the burn box. Also remember to recycle your cans and plastics #1 & 2. Reduce, reuse, recycle.

UPDATE on Alaska Murres:

At this point, we are waiting for detailed results from the national lab. All we know so far is that many of the murres from the beaches were emaciated. But whether they just didn't have any prey available, or whether another condition made it difficult for them to eat, we don't know at this point.

If you see anymore dead murres on the beach or anywhere, please contact us. We are not taking anymore samples, but we would like to know just to keep a count on how many we have found so far.



E H C M e m - b e r s :

- Lydia McMullen
- Stella Meganack
- Jenni Kamluck
- Melinda Kamluck
- Harrietta McGhan
- Christalina Jager

E n v i r o n m e n t a l H e a l t h C o m m i t t e e

On October 5th we had our first FY16 meeting. We went over our recent events as well as our upcoming events for this month. Thank you for being so patient with us, we are still getting the hang of everything. You are a great group to work with and we appreciate everything. We would like to welcome our new member Christalina Jager, thank you for joining our committee. Remember, we are still looking for people to join. If you would like to please contact Rick or Naomi at the council office between 8-5 pm at 284-2227.

Fall Clean-Up

On September 24, we had our fall clean up. We would like to thank the Port Graham School for coming out and helping us keep our community clean as well as the rest of our volunteers. Thank you to our cooks Daryl Kreun and Rick Yeaton who made a total of 140 burgers and hot dogs, and Melinda Kamluck from the Port Graham School for cooking some chili and bringing it to us. This clean-up we had a total of 12 bags picked up, our last pick up in May we had 67 bags of trash. This is a huge difference! We had a total of 40 volunteers that came with us that morning to pick up around our community. We also had a birthday girl that day, Ashlen Malchoff. We have a beautiful community thanks to all of you! Thank you to our sponsors!

Smokey Bay Airlines
NPRHA

Homer Jeans
Port Graham General Store

All Seasons Honda
Port Graham Variety Store



Best Wood Burning Practices For Your Home

Winter is on its way! Time to turn up your heat and start your wood stoves. Remember to check your chimney and clean it if needed. Here are some reminders when burning wood in your stove.

Remember to NEVER BURN:

- Household garbage or cardboard. Plastics, foam and the colored ink magazines. Boxes and wrappers can produce harmful chemicals when burned. They may also damage your wood burning appliance.
- Coated, painted, or pressure-treated wood because it releases toxic chemicals when burned.
- Ocean driftwood, plywood, particle board, or any wood with glue on or in it.

Wood burns best when the moisture content is less than 20%. Much of the heat from burning wet wood is lost in boiling off the moisture and creates dangerous deposits in your chimney. Store wood outdoors, stacked neatly off the ground with the top covered and away from buildings. Burn only dry wood, split and well-seasoned wood.

Have a warm winter!

What is Global Warming?

Global warming is the gradual heating of the Earth's surface, oceans and atmosphere. Scientists have documented the rise in average temperatures worldwide since the late 1800s. Global warming begins with the greenhouse effect, which is caused by the interaction between Earth's atmosphere and incoming radiation from the sun. Solar radiation passes through the atmosphere to the surface of the Earth, where it is absorbed and then radiated upward as heat. Gases in Earth's atmosphere absorb about 90% of this heat and radiate it back to the surface, which is warmed to a life-supporting average of 59 F.

Human-caused global warming occurs when human activity introduces too much of certain types of gas into the atmosphere. More of this gas equals more warming. The atmospheric gases primarily responsible for the greenhouse effect are known as "greenhouse gases" and include water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O).

The effects of global warming are already visible in many areas of the world. Thawing permafrost, loss of coastal sea ice, sea level rise, and more intense extreme weather events are also increasing erosion and flooding along Alaska's northwestern coast. Permafrost is frozen ground that is typically located a few feet below the soil surface in extremely cold regions. 80% of Alaska's surface lies above permafrost. As it thaws, ice in the permafrost melts and can cause the soil above to sink, resulting in ground subsidence and damage to roads, homes, and other structures.

DEC Advise Caution in Harvesting Shellfish:

On September 18, 2015 the Alaska Department of Environmental conservation ordered an immediate release confirming the closure of commercial shellfish harvesting on the east side of Kachemak Bay. The DEC's Environmental Health Lab confirmed Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP) levels above the regulatory limit of 80 micrograms.

There are no safe beaches that are certified or designated as "safe" beaches for harvesting shellfish in Alaska. All recreationally-harvested shellfish including clams, mussels, oysters, geoducks, and scallops may contain paralytic shellfish toxin (PST), if ingested, can cause death. To be safe, clean crab thoroughly, removing all butter (the white-yellow fat inside the back

PSP cannot be cooked, cleaned, or frozen out of shellfish.

PSP comes from algae, a food source for filtering-feeding shellfish, like clams and mussels. The shellfish store the toxin from the algae in their tissues. The toxin can be present even when there is no visible discoloration or so called red tides in the ocean water, and there is no discoloration of the shellfish.

Symptoms of PSP may appear in less than an hour after ingestion.

Tingling or numbness in the lips and tongue, often followed by tingling and numbness in the fingertips and toes. These symptoms may progress to loss of muscle coordination, dizziness, weakness, drowsiness, and incoherence. The only treatment for severe cases is the use of a mechanical respirator and oxygen. If symptoms are exhibited, call 911, or get to a medical facility immediately.

What if I choose to eat non-commercially harvested shellfish despite these risks?

The Alaska Division of Public Health strongly recommends against eating noncommercial shellfish from Alaska waters. We know collecting and eating shellfish is a long held traditional practice, but encourage people to know their risks.

For more information you can go to these websites online:

http://www.cdc.gov/nczved/divisions/dfbmd/diseases/marine_toxins/

Or: http://www.hss.state.ak.us/pdf/201006_shellfish.pdf

O c t o b e r - F i r e P r e v e n t i o n w e e k !

Fire prevention week is the 4th-10th proclaimed by President Calvin Coolidge in 1925. Don't forget the basic steps of fire safety.

- 1: Stop, Drop and Roll
- 2: Smoke detectors save lives
- 3: Don't leave you stove, oven, toasters, or candles unattended
- 4: Do not play with fire
- 5: False alarms kill
- 6: Firefighters are you friends
- 7: Keep a working fire extinguisher near

“Wilderness is not a luxury, but a necessity of the human spirit”

~Edward Abbey

Please make sure your family has a fire safety plan in case of emergencies. There should be an emergency bag packed with canned food, water, flashlights, blankets, matches, and other important items you may need. Make sure you and your children know the escape route and the place you will meet once out of the house.

A l a s k a T r i b a l C o n f e r e n c e o n E n v i r o n m e n t a l M a n a g e m e n t (A T C E M)

The 2015 Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management is an annual gathering that brings together Tribes, Non-profits, and State and Federal organizations, for a week of environmental conversations. The discussions focus on finding and implementating solutions to address the unique environmental concerns facing Alaska communities. This event is hosted by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC).

This years ATCEM themes are:

- Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Environmental Values
- Air Quality and Healthy Homes
- Water Quality and Sanitation
- Our Changing Climate & the Local Environmental Observer
- Solid Waste Management—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Brownsfields— Repurpose, Redevelopment, Revitalization

Rick Yeaton and I will be attending the conference as well as the Hazwopper training on the 24th—26th.

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Local Box Holder

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Preserving the Village character, maintaining Village control,
 provide opportunities to enhance the quality of life in the Village,
 and to protect the environment and subsistence based culture.



Halloween- Pumpkin

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Key:

6	Green
7	Black
8	Orange
9	Orange-Red