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1. This is now the worst haze that Singapore has ever faced. The latest 3-hour PSI is 355, and it was even higher at 371 an hour earlier.

2. We expect the 24 hour PSI to continue to increase and it has reached Very Unhealthy levels in the southern part of Singapore. This is due to an escalation of hot spots in central Sumatra, with 173 hotspots detected on 19 June 2013. The wind and weather conditions will remain constant and we expect the haze to persist or even worsen before improving. It is not possible to give precise predictions.

3. Because of this, we will all have to make adjustments to our daily routine for the next few days. All Singaporeans should limit prolonged or heavy outdoor activities. In particular, children, elderly and those with heart or lung conditions should avoid outdoor activities and seek medical treatment if they feel unwell. MOH has activated hospitals to prepare for any anticipated increase in patients.

4. On the international front, we need urgent and definitive action by Indonesia to tackle the problem at source. Singaporeans are understandably angry, distressed and concerned. Both Minister Shanmugam and I have earlier conveyed the seriousness and urgency of the situation to our respective counterparts in Indonesia. The CEO of NEA, Andrew Tan is attending an emergency haze meeting in Jakarta right now. We will do our best to work with the Indonesians to solve this problem.

5. NEA is also publishing high resolution satellite photographs and geographical coordinates of all the hot spots detected. We hope that this information will be useful to others to help identify and take action against errant companies.

6. No country or corporation has the right to pollute the air at the expense of Singaporeans' health and wellbeing.

National Archives of Singapore