



**National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)  
Smoke Committee (SmoC)  
Monthly Activity Update – October 2012**



### **Communication and Messaging**

- Josh posted action item table on Google Docs site for SmoC members to use.

### **Wildfire Air Quality Response**

- Nick –After poor Air Quality at beginning of month due to fires in OR/WA, AQ improved due to precipitation/mixing. Fire danger no longer an issue. Rx fires beginning.
- Monitors
  - Shawn Urbanski to assist in testing USB personal CO monitors in a burn chamber to test variance in measurement compared to scientific grade monitors.
  - Need to address tech support of national Cache monitors—often no one available to consult with on monitor issues.
  - Need to address issues with GOES function—useful in determining public safety actions. Need to consider back-ups/fire observers/etc.
  - Monitors exceeding recording capability—functionality of monitors in heavy smoke.
    - Issues sending data via satellite.
    - Need to get info on co-located monitors.
    - Met One tech gave EBAM monitor training for PNW AirFire—very good/reasonably priced.
    - FS funding to continue monitoring cache contract and purchase more monitors.
- Air Resource Advisors
  - Brian Potter/Pete Lahm developing March ARA training.
  - Gary Curcio/Pete Lahm working on Air Resource Advisor debriefing questions.
  - Air pollution control districts/AQ office personnel could serve—not limited to FLM agencies.

### **NWCG Business**

- All-Chairs Meeting Development
  - Bringing people from Washington, DC to set strategic tone for meeting.
  - Need to investigate an e-Packet for those unable to attend meeting.
- Fireline Handbook Revisions
  - Gary Curcio assisted Pete Lahm on smoke on roadway comments.
  - Pete Lahm drafted new language replacing Carbon Monoxide Poisoning section and including other pollutants (PM), basecamp exposure and mitigation responses.
  - Smoke roles , responsibilities for many positions developed.
  - Pete Lahm utilized information from George Broyles, Susan Stone, EPA, and CDC.
- Requested reviewers for IRPG and Other Guidance Documents.
- Budget—Phase II of 4 hour wildland fire support training
  - Received \$29K of \$50K funding requested. Remainder possibly held back until 2013.
  - Branch Chairs committed to fund ~\$14K online portion of 2013 Smoke Symposium.
- Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Guide
  - Consolidating comments late Nov/early Dec before holidays
  - Contact Josh if interested
- Requesting SmoC input regarding software model that helps agencies track human-ignited wildfires

### **WFSTAR Personnel Smoke Exposure Module**

- Smoke exposure module unable to be incorporated in the 2013 Annual Fire Refresher.
- Pete asked Scott/WESTAR about developing an exposure module using WFSTAR design.



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- This will be a 10-12 minute online module—task team is working on plans and content.
- **2013 International Smoke Symposium**
  - Pete Lahm to check potential hotel site near U of MD.
  - Need a leader from SmoC to help with the symposium.
  - NRCS will have Conservation Innovation Grant. Possible funding of remote access.

### **Subcommittee Report-Outs**

#### Technical Smoke Topics Subcommittee

- Webinar 10/4 with Sim Larkin—discussed NEI, Bluesky, and SMARTFIRE.
- Emission Inventory work-group to meet end 2012/early 2013.
- EPA to put out letters describing progress on policy
- Smoke Management Guide call on 11/1.
- 11/1 is deadline for emissions data to Sim Larkin.

#### Training Subcommittee

- Wildland fire RD&A Field Guide documents—comment period open through October.
- Personnel Smoke Exposure planning is continuing— funding not expected for refresher course.
- Still interested in creating a module independently of the fireline refresher.
- There will be Transportation Safety and Monitoring Modules developed next but outlines for these have not yet been formulated. Teams being developed.
- Evaluating 4 chapters on next SMG planning call.
- WRAP fire emissions call w/Claudia and Tesh Rao—uploading data to SMARTFIRE—NEI calculations.
- SmoC and Training Subcommittee, webinar Monday, 11/5 1200 Eastern to cover the SmoC vision for Air Quality training for wildland fire management ICS positions

Smoke Managers Subcommittee – Next call on November 6.

#### Rx Cadre

- Grass fuels and fire effects study at Eglin AFB in FL (3 weeks)
- Field burn w/full suite of fire behavior, consumption, & emissions from several burns.
- AirFire/FERA/Missoula Fire Lab are involved—Funded by JFSP collecting data for database.
- AirFire—Deploying 7 EBAMs. CO monitors and five cameras to document smoke plumes—calculate windspeed within plume and individual plume whirls and movement over time. Gary Curcio may also bring up some EBAMs as well. Want to get very detailed data sets
- Some people may also be wearing CO monitors.
- Tara Strand has data comparing EBAM and E-Sampler performance
- Will deploy cameras to take pictures of plume to track whirls w/in plume and calculate within plume velocity and height.
- JFSP will issue an RFA for analysis of data.

#### Round Robin

- Recap SMARTFIRE Webinar. Posted on AirFire site. <http://www.airfire.org/emissions/2011nej/>
- Recap Prescribed Fire Council Webinar. Posted on Lessons Learned Center.
- 2013 Smoke Symposium – planning activity, not likely to overlap other conferences.
- Jessica McCarty researching agricultural and rangeland burning in MN/ND.



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- High incidents of wildfire in MN due to drought conditions.
- OK waiting for EPA comments on OK Smoke Management Plan. Expect certification by end 2012.
- Ed—JFSP outreach
  - Request research—Incorporate existing tools for climate change & wildfire smoke on regional scale.
  - Funding available for smoke health impacts – communities, firefighter health, etc.
  - Firescience.gov is link to consult. Closing date is November 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Contact John Cissel, AI, or Doug with questions on technical issues/questions.
- AWMA Visibility Conference – Kalispell, MT - Susan O’Neill Poster Presentation
  - Much interest in the 2 hr presentation on AQI visual range research.
  - Probably getting more information on the Canadian AQHI.
  - Europe uses scales similar to the AQI.
  - Other researchers are working on particle hygroscopicity—increases as the plume ages and moves downwind.
  - Extended abstracts posted online under pass-word protection for presenter use. Susan will advise accessibility of the abstracts. There will probably be a fee involved.
  - Susan working on full journal article—due October 31—Shared her extended abstract and poster with Smoc.
  - CALPUFF Presentation—investigates different parameters in dispersion models –affects the surface concentration results.
- WESTAR Director’s Meeting
  - Pete Lahm attending representing USFS. Will discuss wildfire communication and response.
  - Pete to speak (10 mins) on black carbon and fire roles in climate change.

### **Upcoming Events**

5th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress: Uniting Research, Education and Management, The Association for Fire Ecology, December 3-7, 2012, Portland, OR <http://afefirecongress.org/>

American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, December 3-7, 2012, San Francisco, CA <http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2012/>

4th IAWF Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference, February 18-22, 2013, Raleigh, NC <http://www.iawfonline.org/2013FuelsConference/index.php>