



NWCG Smoke and Roadway Safety Pocket Card



Stay Informed

- Review all current and expected weather for smoke dispersion.
- Identify topography that can lead surface smoke from fire site to roadways and sensitive areas.
- Beware at night, local winds eventually flow downslope at first and then down valley.

Monitoring Smoke

- Observe smoke production and movement through the fire phases.
- Patrol roadways to identify smoke impacts.
- Review Minimum Acceptable Visibility (MAV) Guide, forecasted Smoke Dispersion Matrix, Superfog Potential and Roadway Visibility Forecast if available (see *Smoke and Roadway Safety Guide*, PMS 477).

Keep Lines of Communication Open

- Identify and communicate about roadway smoke impacts (onsite resources, agency Public Information and/or Safety Officers, local fire dept., emergency management, law enforcement, dept. of transportation, health dept., etc.).
- Notify National Weather Service if a Special Weather Statement or Dense Smoke Advisory is needed.

Employ Mitigation Actions

- Implement mitigation actions when impacts are likely. Consult Roadway Response Plan (RRP) if it exists.
- Evaluate possible actions: lower speed limit, post signs, reroute traffic, use lead car or drone car, close road.

Roadway Smoke Quick Screening Risk Assessment

- A.** Is there active burning and/or smoldering? If YES, continue
- B.** Are there roadways within 10 miles of the fire?
Closer roads are a more serious risk. If YES, continue
< 7 miles (watchout) or < 3 miles (critical)
- C.** Can winds transport smoke towards road? If YES, continue
- D.** Can topographic features lead smoke from the fire site to the road? If YES, continue

If there is a **NO** for **A** through **D**, then there is no or little potential for smoke to reach roadways, continue to monitor smoke.

If **YES** for **A** through **D**, continue:

- E.** Is predicted low temperature $\leq 70^{\circ}\text{F}$ (watchout) or $\leq 55^{\circ}\text{F}$ (critical)? If YES, continue
- F.** Is predicted RH $> 70\%$ (watchout) or $> 90\%$ (critical)? If YES, continue
- G.** Is predicted surface wind speed < 7 mph (watchout) or ≤ 4 mph (critical)? If YES, continue
- H.** Is predicted % cloud cover $< 60\%$ (watchout) or $< 40\%$ (critical)? If YES, continue

If **NO** for **E**, **F**, **G**, or **H**, smoke can still impact roads. Continue to assess and monitor smoke and weather.

If **YES** for **A** through **H**, there is high potential for reduced roadway visibility. If critical weather is predicted, Superfog or Smoke Induced Fog can form. (Superfog is an extreme dense fog that originates at the fire site, reducing visibility to less than 10 feet. Smoke Induced Fog forms downwind from the fire site and severely reduces visibility. For additional information, refer to *Smoke and Roadway Safety Guide*, PMS 477.) If watchout weather is predicted, dense roadway smoke can be expected, creating hazardous visibility conditions.