



**National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)
Smoke Committee (SmoC)
Monthly Activity Update – August 2011**



Smoke Training Assessment (Funded through DOI Fuels Management Committee, SmoC Training Subcommittee): The final report for the Smoke Training Assessment has been completed and is out for review to other NWCG Committees. This assessment reviews the occurrence of smoke and air quality information within 91 NWCG courses and 125 position task books (PTBs) within the national interagency incident management system (NIIMS) as of April 2011. Future work following this report will include a query of the Incident Command Qualification System to determine what wildland fire positions currently have RX-410 and RX-341 training. A one-page briefing paper on the Smoke Assessment is available at the myfirecommunity.net “Air Quality and Fire Issues” neighborhood library (in the briefing papers folder).

Updates to Online Training (Funded through DOI Fuels Management Committee, SmoC Training Subcommittee): Major revisions are underway on the Smokepedia; a compendium of over 600 air quality and smoke related terms. Updates are also being made to the SmoC online course “Smoke and Air Quality for Land Managers”, in particular, discussions about including a case study about the multi-pollutant (particulate matter and ozone) smoke impacts during the 2008 California wildfires.

Smoke Management Guide Revision (Funded through DOI Fuels Management Committee, SmoC Technical Smoke Topics Subcommittee): Progress continues on revisions to the Smoke Management Guide (SMG). Reviewers and authors are being identified for the various chapters, new chapters (such as one on Communications) are being identified and discussions about how Phase II will put the SMG online with additional in-depth features (such as NFDRS and estimated smoldering potential of organic/duff layers) are occurring.

Smoke Managers Subcommittee: A conference call was held 8/30/2011 which discussed the Subcommittee draft Charter and Intent documents, subcommittee organization, and information needs.

Communications and messaging: On 6/28/2011 SmoC hosted a webinar on Wildland Fire Smoke Messaging and Perception. The webinar is available for download and viewing on FRAMES website at: http://frames.nbii.gov/portal/server.pt/community/emissions_smoke/211. A one-page summary of the webinar is available for distribution from the myfirecommunity.net “Air Quality and Fire Issues” neighborhood library (in the briefing papers folder) and was sent to the NWCG Executive Board. Future webinar topics are being discussed.

NWCG Business: SmoC has two items being pursued for funding; Phase II of the Smoke Management Guide and a new online course “Wildland Fire and Smoke Decision Making.”

Emission Inventory Working Group (Technical Smoke Topics Subcommittee): A working group to address emission inventories (EIs) has been working to spin-up two task teams; one to address retrospective EI needs and one to address operation EI needs. A briefing paper on the issues associated with wildland fire emission inventories and the various disjointed efforts has been completed.

Briefing Papers (BP):

- *Current and Upcoming Issues BP* – Progress continues with many SmoC members filling in pieces of information.
- The *2005 National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) BP* is close to finalization. Melanie Pitrolo (FS) is continuing dialog with EPA regarding details of the fire emissions data that went into the assessment.

Contact: Pete Lahm, SmoC Chair, US Forest Service // 202-205-1084 // plahm@fs.fed.us, pete.lahm@gmail.com
For additional information on SmoC go to: <http://www.myfirecommunity.net/Neighborhood.aspx?ID=279>



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- Progress continues with the *Managing Vehicle Traffic in Smoke BP* and the *Fire Fighter Smoke Exposure BP*. Both have been revised to reflect a larger national perspective.
- **Briefing Paper Completed 8/18/2011: *Wildland Fire Smoke Messaging and Perception Webinar*.**
- **Briefing Paper Completed 8/18/2011: *NWCG Smoke Training Assessment*.**
- Briefing papers are posted on the SmoC public myfirecommunity (MFC) neighborhood "Air Quality and Fire Issues" under the Neighborhood Library->Public Folders->Briefing Papers Folder (see link below in footer).

Prescribed Fire Guide Review: A subset of SmoC members collaborated on comments. A key recommendation is that an Appendix on Basic Smoke Management Practices be included in The Guide.

FY2012 Smoke Monitoring Cache Plans: By the end of the year there will be 15 smoke monitors in the cache. The monitors are available for deployment on wildfires, and the FS has an agreement in place so as to deploy the monitors on prescribed fires. Funds are needed to run the program next year.

Round robin

- EPA released Exceptional Event Rule High Wind Event Demonstration Guidance. Similar Guidance is expected in the Fall of 2011 for Wildfire.
- Gary Curcio continues to pursue Javelin technology for deployment on fires to measure CO and other trace gases in smoke.
- Estimated Smoldering Potential (ESP) Sensors – Gary Curcio is working with Larry Bradshaw (Fire Danger Subcommittee) to move North Carolina stations onto the wildland fire assessment webpage

Upcoming Conferences and Meetings:

- The next Agricultural Air Quality Task Force Meeting will be in Manhattan, Kansas, September 20-22. A panel discussion on burning in the Flint Hills will be held and meeting materials posted on: <http://www.airquality.nrcs.gov>.
- AMS 9th Symposium on Fire and Forest Meteorology, October 18-20, 2011, Palm Springs, CA. <http://www.ametsoc.org/MEET/fainst/20119fireforest.html>