

**Smoke Managers Subcommittee
Conference call
07.16.2013**

Roll Call:

Mike Broughton, Colorado/USFWS (Chair)
Claudia Standish, New Mexico/BLM State Office (Vice Chair)
Ursula Parker, California/Butte County AQMD (Secretary)
Eric Olson, California/Siskiyou County APCD
Tim Howell, USFS North Carolina
Thomas Dzomba, USFS Northern Region,
Brian Bohlmann, Wyoming/Air Quality Division
Leif Paulson, Wyoming/Air Quality Division
Carol Blocksome, Kansas/Kansas State University
Nick Yonker, Oregon Dept Forestry
Karen Brooks, California/San Luis Obispo APCD
Gary Arcemont, California/San Luis Obispo APCD
Christine Paulson, Iowa/DNR
Willie Begay, USFS/BLM, Region 6 - Oregon & Washington
Jennifer Malinski, Red Lake Nation, Minnesota
Dennis Dauterive, Mississippi/Mississippi Forestry Commission
Dan Washington, Utah/ Eastern Great Basin Coordination Center
Mike McGowan, EPA Region 10
Dan Dearborn, USFWS Midwest Region
Ann Hobbs, California/Placer County APCD
Kim Sumner, California/Siskiyou County APCD
Rick Gillam, U.S. EPA, Southeast Region, Atlanta, Georgia

The purpose of the Smoke Manager's Sub-Committee is to increase communications amongst the community of air quality professionals, other state and federal governmental agencies, land managers, and other persons conducting burning activities.

**International Smoke Symposium - Survey, Transportation Corridor Safety
(Highway Patrol, Dept. of Trans, Emergency Management) – Mike Broughton**

- Symposium dates: October 21st through 24th in Maryland.
- **Gary Curcio** will be presenting a session on transportation corridor safety.
- Mike would like to get a survey out to determine if transportation folks are attending or would like to but can't, or perhaps need assistance.
- Symposium is sponsored by International Assoc of Wildland Fire, NWCC Smoke Committee, JFSP, Coalition of Rx Fire Councils, NASA, and others.
- **Claudia Standish** noted that the conference is planning to be webcasted for those who cannot attend or who only have interest in part(s) of it, but it hasn't been confirmed yet that the webcasting has been set up.
- A survey is forthcoming.

Routine and Regular Communications between Burners and Regulators (Prescribed Fire Councils, etc)

- In large part, this is why this group was set up; getting Rx burn coordinators together with regulators; getting others involved is a goal.
- Rx Fire Council list has been disseminated via email.
- Examples:
 - California has the IASC group (Interagency Air & Smoke Council: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/smp/progdev/iasc/iasc.htm>). Other areas, such as San Luis Obispo (**Karen Brooks**) have “Fire Safe Councils” - SLO also has a Fire Chiefs’ Association and an annual meeting with Cal Fire. Santa Barbara County has a Range Improvement Association that does a large amount of Rx burning.
 - New Mexico has a small Rx Fire Council. **Claudia Standish** has been a part of it, and says Florida has been good at including good educational components.
 - In Kansas, **Carol Blocksom** says that she’s on the Great Plains Fire Consortium; Kansas, along with OK and TX and NE have a very active group. Mike asked how often the air quality agencies work with the Rx fire Councils. In Kansas, the smoke issue is a done deal. In OK they are working on it, TX nothing has been done and NE, nothing either, but they have state regulations regarding smoke.
 - **Brian Bohlmann** says that in Wyoming, they are supposed to be doing an annual evaluation of their program – they hold an annual meeting with burners asking if they got their permits and if are they onboard with their post-burn reports. Two years ago the WY governor pushed to have more involvement. WY maintains a website similar to Inciweb with information on fires in WY and in adjacent states.
 - In Minnesota, **Dan Dearborn** reported that their interagency team has a prescribed fuels team and group that works with smoke management/updating the plan and reporting emissions.
 - **Mike McGowan** runs an annual meeting in March or April; EPA sponsors a meeting for Pacific Northwest States, Idaho and WA. Last year’s meeting was in Elinsburg WA and was scheduled immediately following the Rx Fire council meeting. There is interest in Oregon and WA. Last year’s meeting focus was on wildfire response because of fires they had had; they are working on protocol. Mike has also worked in a group on an Executive Smoke Team where lead folks put together a vision statement on how agencies will work together.
 - **Willie Begay** stated that the Oregon Fire Council is in the beginning stage of forming. Mike B. said that **Nick Yonker** is working closely with the Oregon DEQ.
 - In Mississippi, **Dennis Dauterive** says that there aren’t a lot of interactions between regulators and burners; they issue permits, and there is not a lot of coordination. DEQ only gets involved with prohibited material burning (tires, etc.).
 - Mike B. suggested that our group reach out to their region’s Rx fire council so that the conversation about smoke is started BEFORE there is a fire. **Ursula Parker** interjected that she and **Ann Hobbs** have gone to the Northern Cal Rx Fire Council meetings. Ann added that Southern Sierra Rx Fire Council is starting up and may be a good group. Ann added that IASC was started in 1994 and remains active. PFIRS, an online web-based program for California’s Rx fires, is also great for getting info.

- **Gary Arcemont** added that the 1300 PT call in California is also good for participation/coordination/information. He also added that the GACCs put on a regular call as well.
- Claudia said that if everyone put together a paragraph about what is available in their area, this group could compile the information and submit it as a reference document. Ursula offered for folks to send her an email and she'll compile the information into a document. Mike will put together something to send out.

EPA Regulatory Update – Rick Gillam

There hasn't been a lot of activity on the fire & smoke front at EPA recently, but have been a couple of things: Exceptional Events (EE) and Fire Policy update. EE has been discussed previously; there are plans for upcoming revisions to EE rule. There will be a listening session in August and Rick will send out info on that.

- EPA has contracted with Washington University to put together a web-based tool to look at EE and what has caused them; the tool will contain satellite info, met info, and other info able to be queried. The tool is continually evolving but is already up and running. Link that was sent out in an email is here: http://wiki.esipfed.org/index.php/Exceptional_Air_Pollution_Event_Analysis_Community_Workspace. There have been webinars on it (45 min webinar is avail from the Wiki site if you want to learn more about the uses of it);
- Stakeholder meetings still on track for fall.
- The Administration came out with Climate Action plan in June and it includes fire concerns. Rx fire could be an important tool that could be highlighted in that plan as it evolves.
- Other items of interest: surpass group that works on sustainability issues, one is Rx fire and longleaf pine restoration. Came up with pocket guide that was shared with the group, there is an iPhone app that will utilize and expand on the pocket guide. It would be free.
- Rick is on a meteorology continuing education group, online training smoke/wildland fire, looking at remote sensing in that area and Rick gave a link. There is a lot of good information in it. It is about a 90-minute training which uses Hysplit and other tools for smoke predictive forecasts.
- **Ann Hobbs** commented that it may be the new GOES satellite. She commented that Mark Rumininsky (NOAA) would be a good person to talk with the group. She will provide info that was disseminated at IASC meeting. <http://www.arb.ca.gov/smp/progdev/iasc/2013prezo/noaa.pdf>
- **Gary Arcemont** commented that AirNow tech and EPA website access the HYSPLIT model.

Roundtable Discussion – Mike Broughton

Mike B. was deployed onto West Fork Complex in Southern CO with **Willie Begay** and they had a lot of trouble getting eBAMs or eSamplers that they could deploy out to the fire. They had an order in to Boise before Mike joined the fire and in the two week period they never got one.

Mike B. brought one with him and they got one from Forest Region 2, then Mike's malfunctioned and they got two from Missoula Tech Center. Unfortunately, one malfunctioned, and then one last one from Josh Hall in NM was sent. Each order was a two-day delay. Trying to get stations on a timely basis was an issue. **Claudia Standish** commented that she likes to

emphasize that your eyes are a great tool and the body gives clues. It's great to have monitors, but sometimes you have to trust yourself.

Gary commented that Trent Procter (USFS, California) works with them and they experience a lot of sharing between neighboring agencies.

Mike B. commented that getting access to monitors is something to work on in advance of the fire season.

Willie Begay commented that another smoke challenge is that they didn't have Internet access to the data on the weekend following July 4th for the monitors that report to the Desert Research Institute - Western Regional Climate Center (DRI/WRCC) site (<http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/smoke.pl>). There are limited contacts to determine if the problem is with the satellite connection, the website, or with the monitors themselves. There should be a phone list 24/7 in case there are technical problems with the monitors.

Mike B. agreed and noted that financial cutbacks are making it a challenge. They are still trying to get all of the info to the AirNow site so that there is a nice central site to get/send info on.

Next meeting will likely be late September. **Note: Now late October.**