Air Resources Board

Robert F. Sawyer, Ph.D., Chair
1001 I Street • P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812 • www.arb.ca.gov

Linda S. Adams
Secretary for Environmental Protection

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

Matthew Lakin, Ph.D.
Air Quality Analysis Office Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street, AIR-7
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Dr. ~~Lakin~~: Matt

I am writing to request that the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District PM2.5 exceedance which occurred at the Portola monitor on July ~~7~~ 8, 2007, be flagged as a natural event due to smoke from wildfires. Documentation on the wildfires and its impact on air quality are attached.

On March 22, 2007, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) adopted the 'Treatment of Data Influenced by Exceptional Events' rule that allows data to be flagged and thus excluded from consideration by U.S. EPA when making decisions related to the attainment status of an area. This rule, which became effective on May 22, 2007, requires that States submit documentation to support flagging to the appropriate U.S. EPA Regional Office.

We are therefore formally requesting you concur that this exceedance is a PM2.5 natural event and send us confirmation by letter. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed documentation please contact Ms. Sylvia Zulawnick, Manager, Particulate Matter Analysis Section, at (916) 324-7163 or via email at szulawni@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Karen Magliano

Karen Magliano, Chief
Air Quality Data Branch
Planning and Technical Support Division

Attachment

cc: See next page

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: http://www.arb.ca.gov.

California Environmental Protection Agency

Printed on Recycled Paper

cc: Ms. Gretchen Bennitt, APCO
Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
200 Litton Drive, Suite 320
PO Box 2509
Grass Valley, California 95945

Ms. Sylvia Zulawnick, Manager
Particulate Matter Analysis Section

NORTHERN SIERRA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT **GRETCHEN BENNITT, APCO**

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS
200 Litton Drive, Suite 320
P.O. Box 2509
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 274-9360 / FAX: (530) 274-7546
office@myairdistrict.com or www.myairdistrict.com

TRUCKEE FIELD OFFICE
13450 Donner Pass Rd., Ste. B, Truckee, CA 96161
P.O. Box 9766, Truckee, CA 96162
(530) 550-7872 / FAX: (530) 587-2623
email: ryan@myairdistrict.com

QUINCY FIELD OFFICE
264 Hospital Rd.
P.O. Box 3981, Quincy, CA 95971
(530) 283-4654 / FAX: (530) 283-0699
email: george@myairdistrict.com

June 9, 2009

California Air Resources Board
MLD, Air Quality Data Branch
Karen Magliano, Chief
1001 I St.
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: PM 2.5 Exceptional Event, Portola, CA – July 8, 2007 Antelope/Wheeler Complex Wildfire

Dear Ms. Magliano:

The Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD) requests that ARB flag the July 8, 2007 PM 2.5 FRM monitoring data for Portola, CA in AQS as an exceptional event influenced by wildfire. This data flagging request is for exclusion of the data from regulatory consideration, particularly with regard to the PM 2.5 NAAQS.

Accompanying this letter is supporting data and documentation of the wildfire's impact on the monitoring site. The document was publicly noticed on the NSAQMD web site from May 5 through June 5, 2009. No public comments were received.

Sincerely,

Joe Fl for
Gretchen Bennitt, APCO

GB/sfl

Welcome to the Air District

Email List

We have updated our software and now offer an easier way for people to signup to receive Health Advisories from us! You can also **view Grass Valley Ozone data** on a real time basis.

We offer four different Email lists that you can sign up for:

Air Quality Health Advisories in Western Nevada County

Air Quality Health Advisories in Eastern Nevada County

Air Quality Health Advisories in Plumas - Sierra County

General News From Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District

Please Sign up for one or more of our lists to help us keep you informed as to the conditions around you!

Click on the Menu Item labled "Email Lists" or click here.

PUBLIC NOTICE: NATURAL EVENT DOCUMENT FOR JULY 8, 2007 PORTOLA SMOKE INCURSION FROM ANTELOPE/WHEELER COMPLEX FIRE, PLUMAS COUNTY

Public Notice is hereby given that written comments are being received on a Natural Event Document describing a wildfire smoke event that caused an unusually high ambient Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) concentration at the Portola, California air monitoring site in Plumas County on July 8, 2007, resulting in an exceedance of the federal PM2.5 air quality standards. This high concentration is attributed to smoke impacts from the Antelope/Wheeler Complex Fire, a lightning-ignited fire in the Plumas National Forest, which burned from July 5 to July 13, 2007. The Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD) is requesting that the July 8, 2007 monitoring data be excluded from federal regulatory determinations relating to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards because the Fire constitutes a natural exceptional event.

The "Natural Event Document" discussing the causes and contributing factors of the particulate episode can be downloaded here *(Caution: Super big file!)*. The

NSAQMD will submit the document to the California Air Resources Board and the U.S. EPA, along with any comments received, after the comment period has expired.

Interested persons may submit comments addressing the July 8, 2007 event to Sam Longmire via e-mail at sam@myairdistrict.com *or* via mail at NSAQMD, PO Box 2509, Grass Valley, CA 95945. Comments must be received by June 5, 2009.

WOODSTOVE WOES AND WORRIES

It is that time of year again, yep, time to crank up the old woodstove and let all your neighbors know that you don't have a clue how to properly operate that old woodstove (or maybe even a new woodstove!). Please visit this great website, http://www.woodheat.org/, and take a little time to learn how to get the most from your woodstove. Your neighbors will appreciate the cleaner air, and you just might find yourself saving a lot of wood (and $$ money $$) by keeping that heat indoors instead of sending most of it up the chimney. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Sincerely, the Air District.

Portable Equipment

Know Your Portable Equipment Permitting and Registration Requirements

Do you operate a portable engine and / or portable equipment that emits air pollution?

Portable equipment includes, but is not limited to the following:

- cranes
- power generation
- pumps
- diesel pile-driving hammers
- welding
- service or work-over

rigs
• well drilling
• dredges on boats or barges
• wood chippers
• tactical support equipment
• compressors
• vacuum trucks

Portable equipment units include, but are not limited to, the following portable engine-associated units:

• confined and unconfined abrasive blasting operations
• concrete batch plants
• sand and gravel screening
• rock and pavement crushing and recycling
• tub grinders and trammel screens

Check under our permit section **for more info!**

Feed Entries

Powered by Joomla!. Valid XHTML and CSS.

NATURAL EVENT DOCUMENT

ANTELOPE FIRE
JULY 2007

Exceptional Event Affected Air Quality

On July 8, 2007, the Federal Reference Method (FRM) monitoring site at Portola, in Plumas County, recorded a PM2.5 mass concentration of 41 ug/m3, which exceeded the PM2.5 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of 35 ug/m3 (Table 1). PM2.5 Beta Attenuation Method (BAM) monitors in the area also recorded increases in PM2.5 levels (Table 2) during the same time period, although none were as high as measured by the FRM monitor. The California Air Resources Board (ARB) and the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (District) request that data from the affected FRM monitor noted in Table 1 be flagged as impacted by an exceptional event, in this case, smoke from the nearby Antelope/Wheeler Complex Fire, and be excluded from use for regulatory determinations.

Table 1. Monitoring Site(s) Exceeding NAAQS PM2.5 Standard

Monitoring Site	AQS No.	Date of Exceedance	PM2.5 FRM Concentration
Portola	060631009	July 8, 2007	41 ug/m3

Table 2. PM2.5 BAM Concentrations at Affected and Nearby Monitoring Sites

Monitoring Site	AQS No.	PM2.5 BAM Concentrations (ug/m3)						
		7/5	7/6	7/7	7/8	7/9	7/10	7/11
Portola	060631009	2	6	10	25	22	8	10
Quincy	060631006	11	13	13	30	20	13	15
Grass Valley	060540005	12	13	12	14	14	12	10

057

Regulatory Background

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) provides the definition and criteria for determining whether air quality data is impacted by an exceptional event. The 40 CFR 50.1 (j) definition states that "exceptional event means an event that affects air quality, is not reasonably controllable or preventable, is an event caused by human activity that is unlikely to recur at a particular location or a natural event, and is determined by the Administrator in accordance with 40 CFR 50.14 to be an exceptional event." The demonstration to justify data exclusion as outlined in 40 CFR 50.14 specifies that evidence must be provided that:

1. The event meets the definition of an exceptional event;
2. There is a clear causal relationship between the measurement under consideration and the event that is claimed to have affected air quality in the area;
3. The event is associated with a measured concentration in excess of normal historical fluctuations, including background; and,
4. There would have been no exceedance or violation but for the event.

This report documents that the event meets the above criteria and provides analysis to demonstrate that:

I. The events were not reasonably controllable or preventable because the smoke originated from a non-anthropogenic source, the Antelope/Wheeler Complex Fire;
II. There is a clear-causal connection between the smoke from the wildfire and the exceedances at the monitoring site at Portola;
III. The measured concentrations were beyond normal historical and background levels; and
IV. The exceedance would not have occurred "but for" the smoke from the wildfire.

The following analysis demonstrates that a clear causal relationship existed between the smoke from the Antelope Complex Fire in July 2007 in Plumas County, California, and the exceedance measured at the Portola FRM monitor. This analysis utilized monitoring data, meteorological data, wind trajectories, emissions information, and historical data. ARB staff concludes that, but-for the smoke from the wildfires, the measured concentrations at the monitors would not have exceeded the NAAQS.

Overview of Event

On July 5, 2007, lightning from a series of dry thunderstorms ignited fires in the Plumas National Forest near Wheeler Peak (Figure 1). By the time they were contained on July 11, what had become known as the Antelope Complex Fire had burned more than 25,000 acres. Smoke impacts were noted throughout northern California and extended to parts of Oregon, Idaho, and Nevada (see attached news media). Satellite image analysis by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Satellite Services Division, showed smoke from several fires impacting the region, as illustrated in the satellite images below (Figure 2) and discussed in attached documentation.

Figure 1. Map of Area Affected by Antelope/Wheeler Complex Fire.

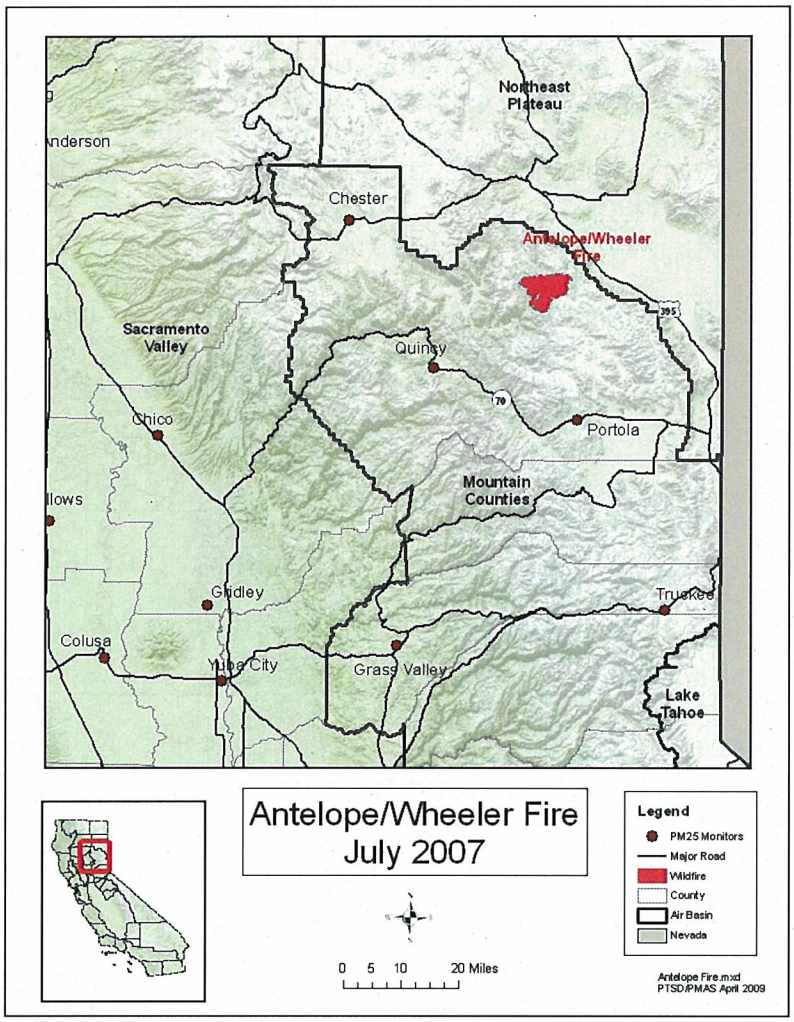
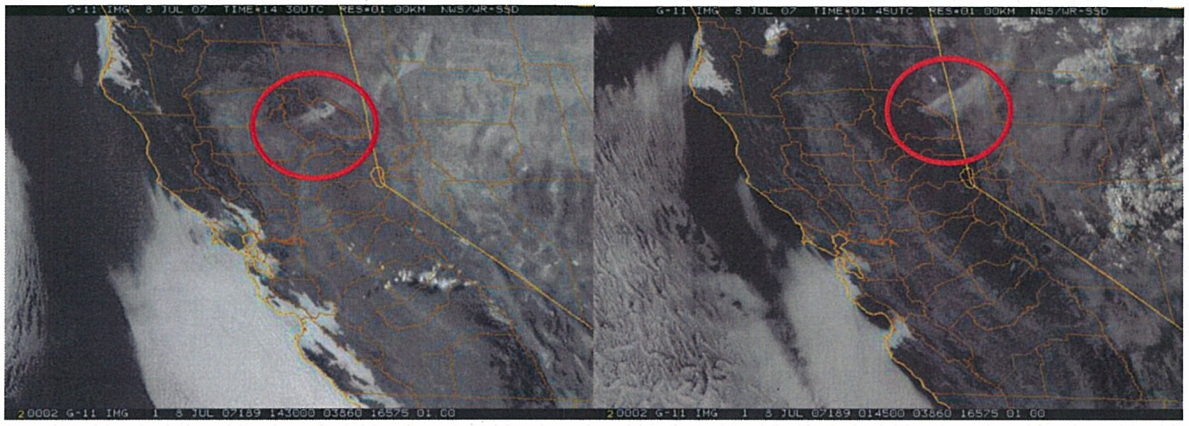


Figure 2. GOES-11 satellite images showing Antelope Complex Fire (red circles) and subsequent smoke plumes on ~~July 7, 7 p.m., and July 8, 7 a.m.~~ Labeled incorrectly. CARB is correcting.



The Portola monitoring site, less than 30 miles south of the fire lines, saw rising PM2.5 levels beginning July 6 with hourly maximums reaching as high as 57 ug/m3 on July 8 and 71 ug/m3 on July 10 (Table 3 and Figure 3). This was an indication of smoke impact from the beginning of the fire. PM2.5 levels, however, did not exceed the standard until July 8. NOAA analysis indicated that the primary path of the smoke was to the north and northeast, however the amount of smoke in the atmosphere from this and other fires (see Attachments) increased PM2.5 levels at the nearby monitor enough to exceed the federal standard.

Table 3. PM2.5 Hourly Maximums and Averages for Portola from July 5 to 10, 2007.

Date	PM2.5 BAM Concentrations (ug/m3)	
	Daily Average	Daily Maximum
July 5	1.7	6
July 6	6.2	24
July 7	10	16
July 8	24.8	57
July 9	22.3	71
July 10	7.8	19

Figure 3. Portola PM2.5 Hourly BAM Concentrations from July 5 to 10, 2007.

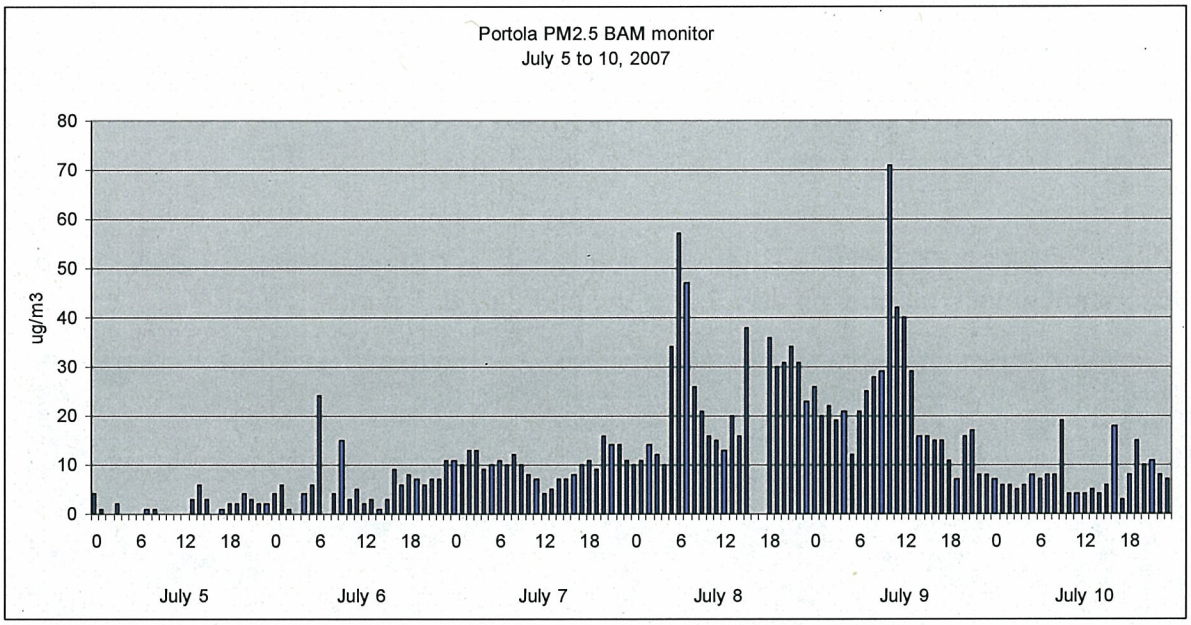
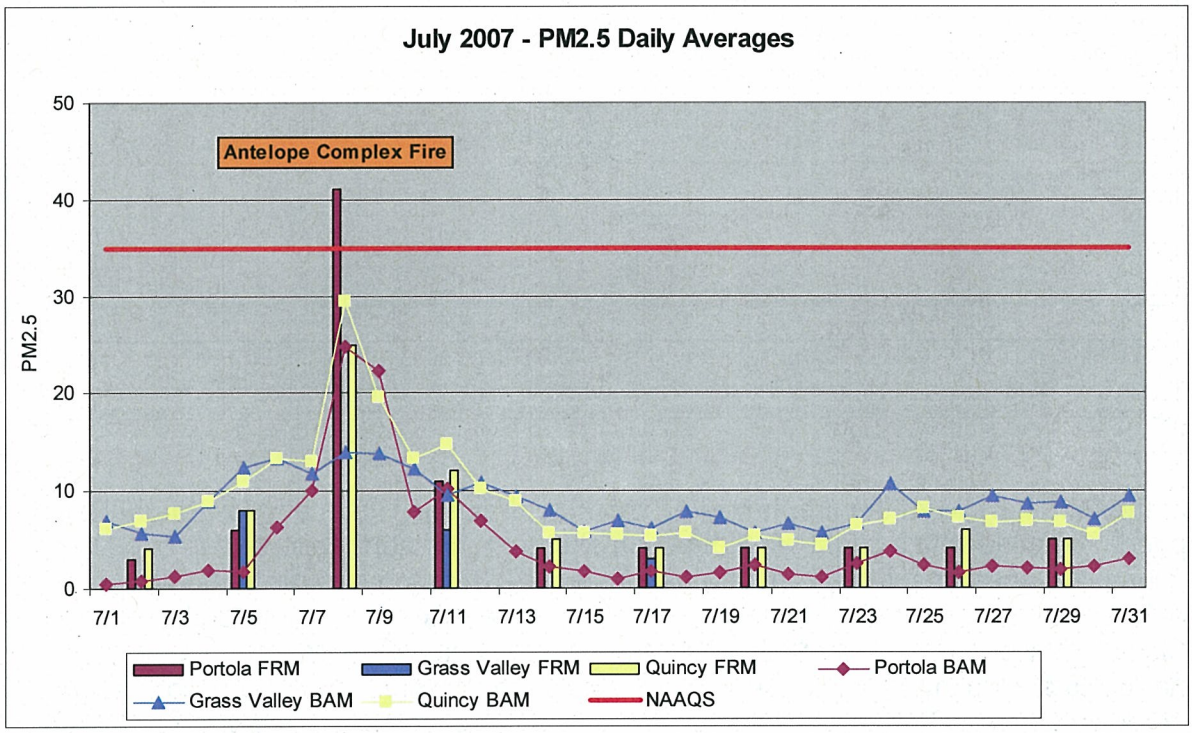


Figure 4, below, shows PM2.5 levels from both FRM (columns) and BAM (lines) monitors in the region. Prior to the event, all monitoring sites in the area were well below the NAAQS, rising only when impacted by smoke from the fire. All concentrations rapidly returned to normal low levels after the fire was contained in mid-July. There were no PM10 monitors operating in the area; the closest is at Chico, 74 miles to the west, and not impacted by this event. A comparison to PM2.5 levels was, therefore, not available.

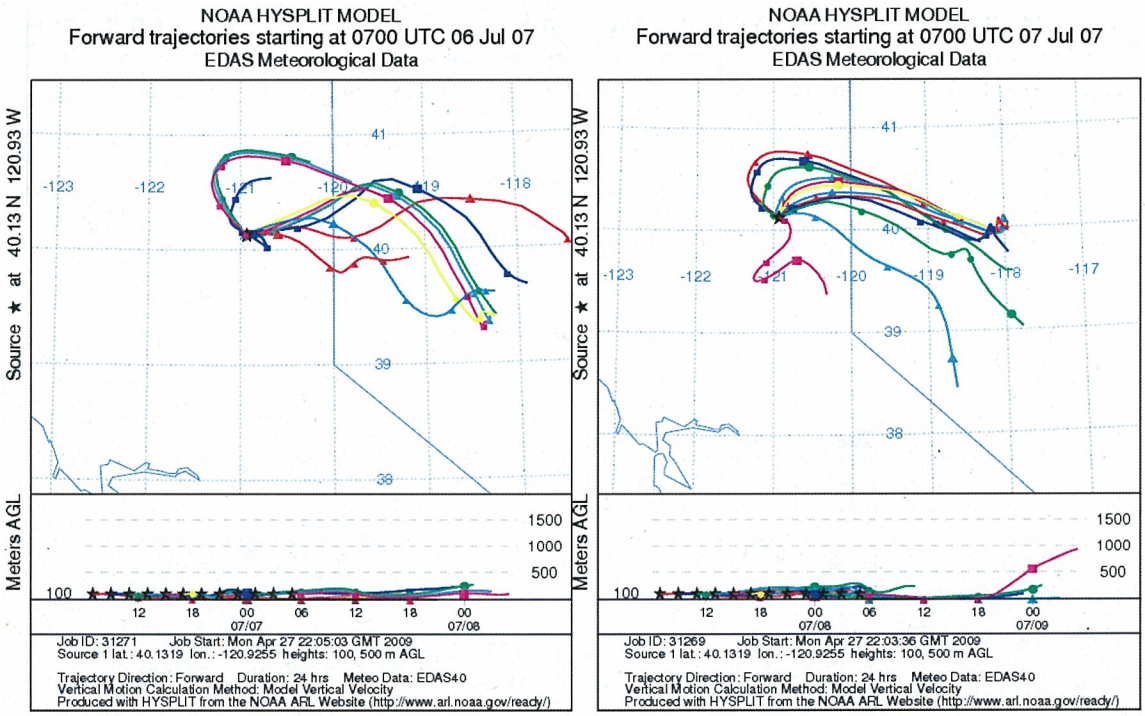
Figure 4. Plumas County PM2.5 FRM and BAM Daily Averages for July, 2007



Clear Causal Connection

Air parcel trajectories, used to determine the source of impacts on the monitoring site, were modeled using the NOAA Hybrid Single Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPLIT) Model. This model has been favored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to help describe causal connections between suspected source regions (e.g., wildfire locations) and event receptors (i.e., monitoring sites). HYSPLIT forward trajectories (Figure 5) from the approximate position of the Antelope Complex Fire showed that the first two days of the fire did not impose significant smoke impacts at the Portola monitoring site, corroborating the evidence seen by both the FRM and BAM monitors (Figures 3 and 4 above).

Figure 5. HYSPLIT Model Forward Trajectories for the Antelope Complex Fire - July 6 and July 7, 2007.



On the third full day of the fire, however, morning drainage winds and low diurnal wind speeds, coupled with a slight wind direction shift from the north, allowed smoke to accumulate and impact the Portola monitoring site. Both forward (from the fire) and backward (from the monitoring site) trajectories show this impact (Figure 6). A more detailed view of the backward HYSPLIT trajectories, using Google Earth satellite images, is shown in Figure 7. Heavier lines indicate trajectories at 100m; lighter lines use elevations of 500m. Both levels in the atmosphere indicate transport from the fire to the monitoring site in Portola and transport from areas known already impacted by smoke (north and northeast of the fire area as seen in the satellite images in Figure 2). The continued, albeit lesser, impacts on the Portola monitoring site on July 9 and July 10 are shown in the HYSPLIT trajectories in Figure 8.

12/15/09 - CARB said they misrepresented the fire location in these trajectory runs. They are re-running with correct information

Figure 6. HYSPLIT Model Forward and Backward Trajectories for the Antelope Complex Fire - July 8, 2007.

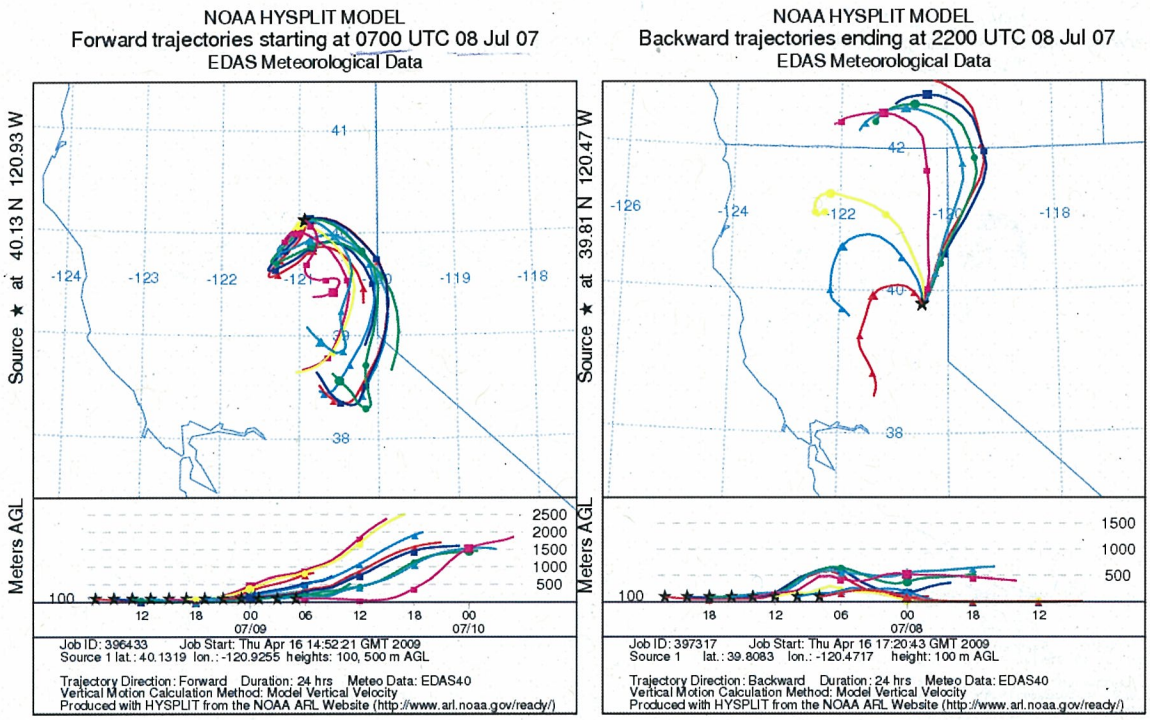


Figure 7. HYSPLIT Backward Trajectory for the Antelope Complex Fire superimposed on Google Earth™ satellite image – July 8, 2007.

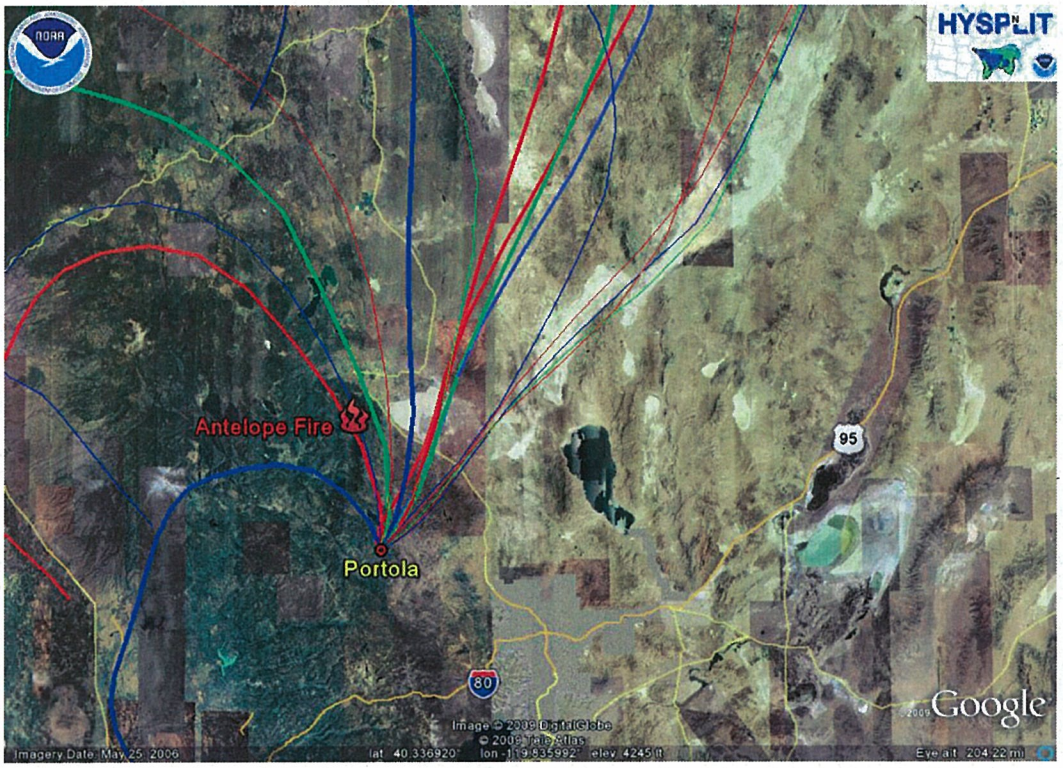
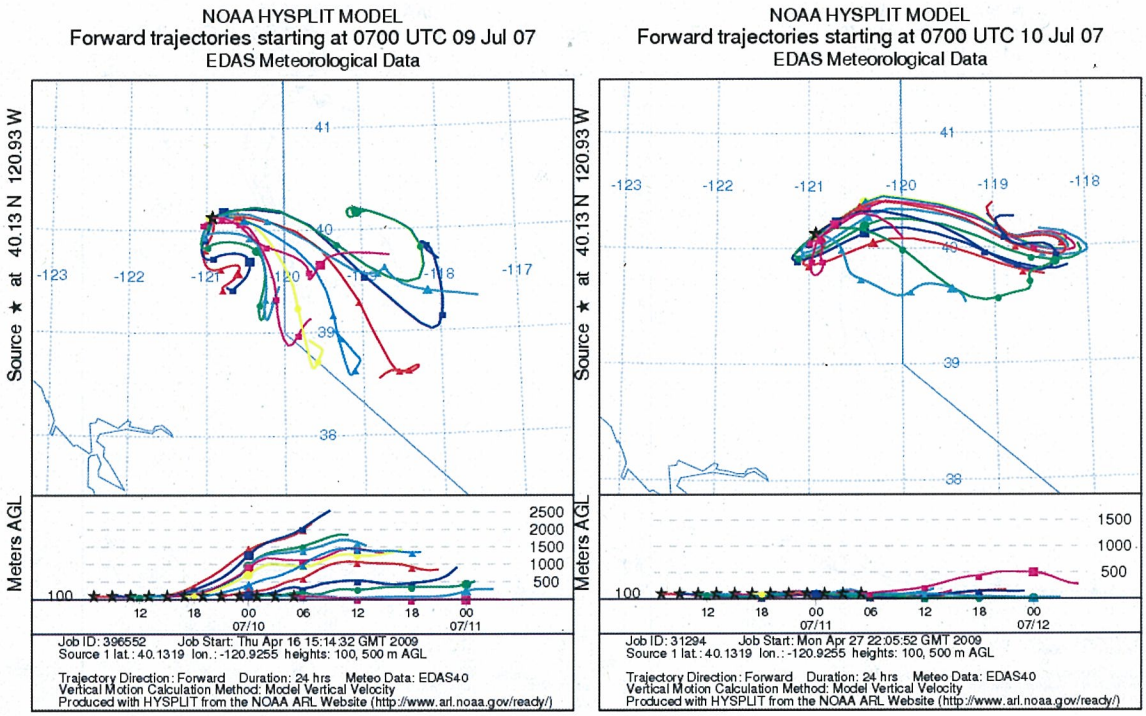


Figure 8. HYSPLIT Model Forward Trajectories for the Antelope Complex Fire - July 9 and July 10, 2007.



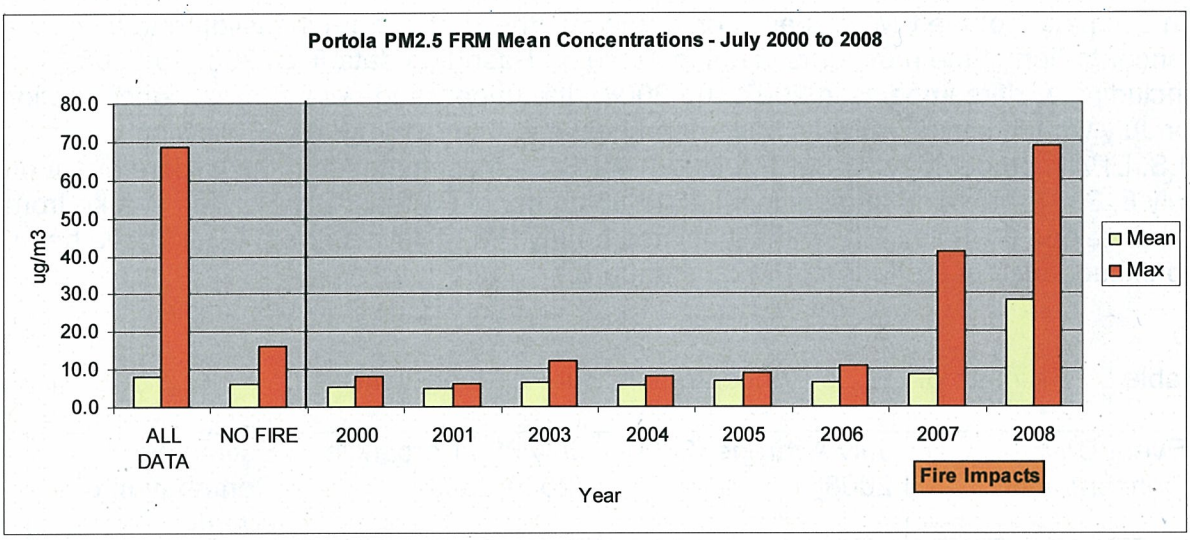
Beyond Historical and Background Concentrations

The Portola monitor has historically exhibited low PM2.5 concentrations during the summer months. Table 4 shows average July data from 2000 to 2008 (2002 data is not available). If days with fire impacts in July 2007 and July 2008 are removed, the average concentration is only 6 ug/m3. Even allowing for the extremes of the last two years, the average is only 8 ug/m3. Figure 9 shows this data in a more graphical format.

Table 4. July PM2.5 Statistics for Portola.

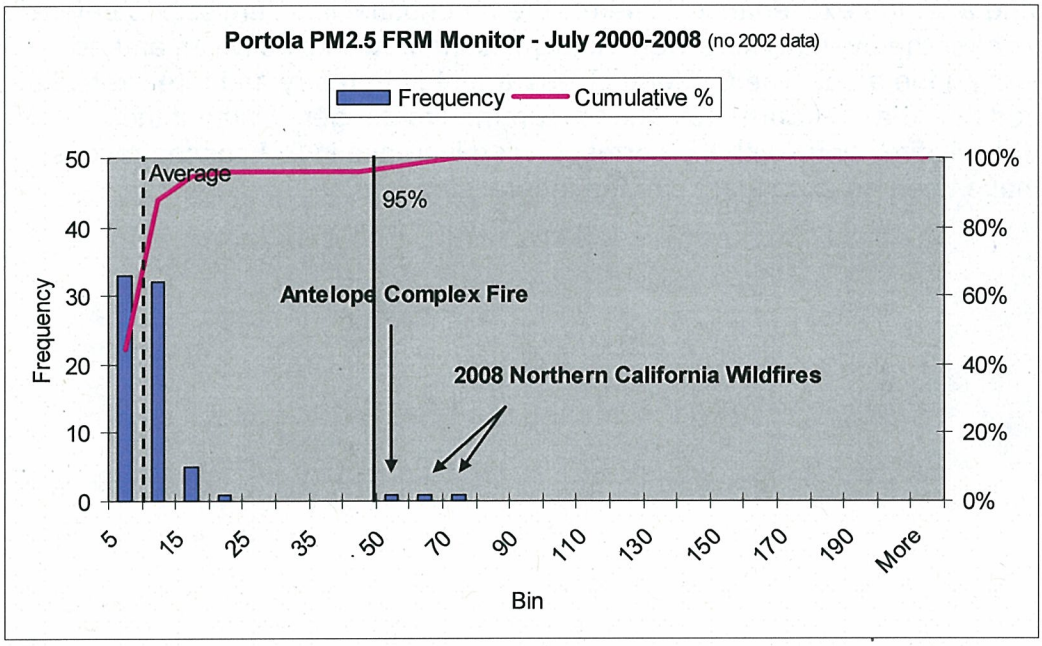
	2000-2008 (no 2002)		*2000*	*2001*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
	ALL DATA	*NO FIRE*							*Fire*	*Fire*
Mean	8.1	6.1	5.3	4.7	6.6	5.8	7.0	6.4	8.6	28.0
Standard Err	1.2	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.8	3.7	11.2
Median	6.0	6.0	6.0	4.5	5.0	6.0	7.0	6.0	4.0	14.6
Mode	6.0	6.0	6.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	4.0	
Std Dev	10.4	2.7	2.3	1.1	2.8	1.1	1.6	2.3	11.6	27.4

Figure 9. July PM2.5 FRM Mean and Maximum Concentrations for Portola.



As noted in Figure 10, exceedances such as the one seen at the Portola FRM monitoring site on July 8, 2007, occur less than 3% of the time. Since 2000, only two other July days exceeded the PM2.5 24-hour NAAQS. Both these days occurred during the 2008 Northern California Wildfires; a series of fires that impacted dozens of other monitoring sites in the region.

Figure 10. Historical July PM2.5 FRM Concentrations at Portola.



No exceedance 'but-for' the Event

An estimation of the PM2.5 mass contributed by the smoke from the wildfire to the concentration at the monitor is given in Table 5. Based on data from 2000 to 2008 (including wildfire impacts in 2007 and 2008), the upper range of a normal concentration for July would, conservatively, have been between 8 and 16 ug/m3. Following U.S. EPA methodology (U.S. EPA, 2009), ARB Staff estimates that the wildfire event on July 8, 2007, provided an additional 25 to 33 ug/m3 of PM2.5. 'But-For' the smoke from the Antelope Complex Fire and associated hourly PM2.5 levels, there would have been no exceedance of the federal PM2.5 standard.

Table 5. Estimate of PM2.5 Concentration 'But-For' the Event

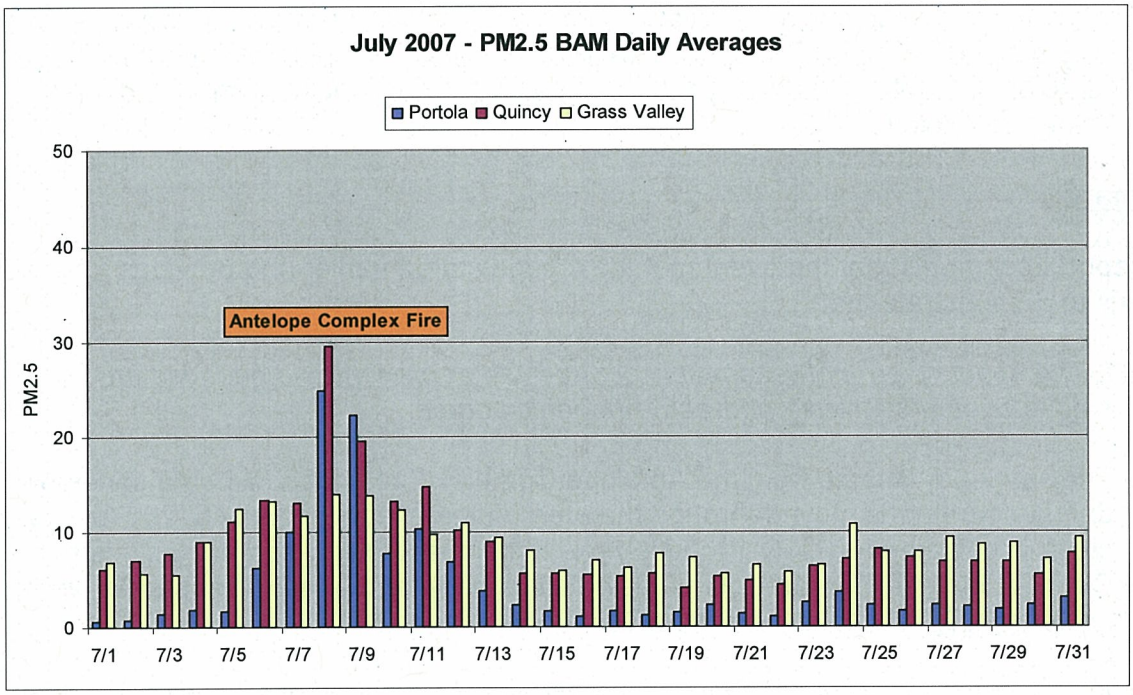
Event Day Concentration	July Average (2000-2008)	July 98th Percentile (2000-2008)	Estimated Contribution of Event
41 ug/m3	8.1 ug/m3	16 ug/m3	25 – 33 ug/m3

PM2.5 concentrations at the Portola monitoring site during the summer season are generally well below the NAAQS. The July 8 concentration of 41 ug/m3 was far above historical fluctuations as well as above background levels.

Local Emissions

Daily PM2.5 BAM monitoring for July 2007 (Figure 11) showed average PM2.5 levels both before and after the exceedance. There were no unusual local emissions before, or during, and after the event. There were no significant fireworks activities and no prescribed burning the area. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) declared July 8 a "No-Burn" day due to extreme fire danger. Without the presence of the wildfire, along with the corresponding increase in PM concentrations, there would have been no exceedance of the federal standard.

Figure 11. Daily PM2.5 BAM Concentrations in Plumas County, California – July 2007



Mitigation Requirements

Provide for Prompt Public Notification of Exceedance Events

A Health Advisory Program exists to promptly notify the public, via website postings, news media releases, faxes and e-mail, of unhealthy air quality events when data indicate the likelihood of air pollutant concentrations reaching the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups range or exceeding the NAAQS. The District operates five PM2.5 BAM sites for forecasting purposes. This data is utilized by the District to keep the public informed of current conditions, and is posted to the Internet via the Air Resources Board's web site. In the case of any smoke incursion, the District works in cooperation with local health agencies, media, the United States Forest Service, and other entities to provide timely information to the public on the health hazards of smoke and ways to minimize health impacts.

The Plumas National Forest issued the document "Wildfire Smoke and Your Health" on July 9, 2007, to aid in public education of smoke impacts. This document is included in the attachments.

Provide for Public Education

The District, in conjunction with Nevada, Plumas, and Sierra Counties, has an active community outreach program, as well as easily accessible information on their websites, to aid in public education on the hazards posed by smoke from wildfires and how to minimize exposure.

Summary

This report documents that the event met the criteria stated earlier and provides analysis to demonstrate that:

I. The events were not reasonably controllable or preventable because the smoke originated from a non-anthropogenic source;

The smoke originated from the Antelope Complex Fire, ignited when a series of dry thunderstorms moved through the area on the evening of July 5, 2007. The fire was contained by July 11, but smoke had impacted a vast area, including the City of Portola in Plumas County, as detailed in numerous news reports as well as in the NOAA Smoke Text Products in Attachment 2.

II. There is a clear-causal connection between the smoke from the wildfires and the exceedances at the monitoring site at Portola;

HYSPLIT backward and forward trajectories indicate impact at the Portola monitor on July 8. Both satellite images and on-the-ground smoke reports reiterate the extent of the smoke in the Portola area. Although detailed speciation data is not available, a clear-causal connection exists between the timing of the smoke from the fires reaching Portola and the rising PM2.5 levels seen at the monitoring site.

III. The measured concentrations were beyond normal historical levels;

The average PM2.5 mass concentration for the Portola monitoring site, without impacts from the 2007 or 2008 wildfires, is 6 ug/m3. The measured concentration on July 8 was 41 ug/m3, almost six times the expected level, making the PM2.5 concentration historically significant.

IV. The exceedance would not have occurred "but for" the smoke from the wildfire.

PM2.5 levels at the Portola monitoring site before July 5 and after July 11 were close to expected levels for July. As noted in Table 4 above, an estimated 25 to 33 ug/m3 was contributed by the smoke from the nearby wildfire. 'But-for' this contribution, PM2.5 levels at Portola would have been substantially below the NAAQS of 35 ug/m3.

The rise in PM2.5 concentrations at the Portola site, accompanied by close proximity to smoke from the extensive Antelope Complex Fire and further implicated by satellite

images, trajectory analysis, and news media reports, indicate a clear and causal connection between the smoke from the wildfire and the exceedance at the monitor. Further analysis of historical and background levels, as well as local emissions, indicates that 'but-for' the smoke, there would not have been an exceedance at the Portola monitor.

Attachments

1. Smoke Advisory Information from U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service
2. NOAA Satellite Services Division, Smoke Text Products for July 7-9, 2007.
3. Fire Update from U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service
4. News media reports regarding smoke impacts from Antelope/Wheeler Complex Fire.
5. Satellite images

Resources

California Air Resources Board (CARB). Air Quality and Meteorological Information System (AQMIS2). http://www.arb.ca.gov/aqmis2/aqinfo.php, 2009

California Air Resources Board (CARB). California Ambient Air Quality Data (1980-2007). 2009 Air Quality Data DVD, January 2009.

Federal Register (72 FR 13560-13581). *Treatment of Data Influenced by Exceptional Events; Final Rule*. Vol.72, No. 55, Pages 13560-13581, March 22, 2007,

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Air Resources Laboratory, Hybrid Single Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory Model (HYSPLIT): http://www.arl.noaa.gov/HYSPLIT.php, 2009

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Satellite Services Division, Smoke Text Product: http://www.ssd.noaa.gov/ps/fire/data/smoke, 2009

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Storm Prediction Center, Fire Weather Forecast Archives: http://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/fire_wx/, 2009

Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (District). Website, http://www.myairdistrict.com., 2009.

Plumas County, California. Website, http://www.countyofplumas.com/, 2009

United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Neil Frank, Presenting Evidence to Justify Data Exclusion as an Exceptional Event, Presentation to Westar State/EPA Exceptional Events Implementation Meeting, February 25-26, 2009.

ATTACHMENT 1

Smoke and Health Information issued by the Plumas National Forest, July 9, 2007, in response to smoke impact in the area.

Wildfire Smoke and Your Health

Categories	PM2.5 (1-hr av.) (ug/m^3)	Visibility (miles)
Good	0-40	10 miles and up
Moderate	41-80	6 to 9 miles
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	81-175	3 to 5 miles
Unhealthy	176-300	1 ½ to 2 ½ miles
Very Unhealthy	301-500	1 to 1 ¼ mile
Hazardous	Over 500	¾ mile or less

The procedure for making personal observation to determine the forest fire smoke index value for local areas without official monitors is:

1. Face away from the sun.
2. Determine the limit of yoiur bisible range by looking for targets at known distance(miles). Visible range is the point at which even high contrast objects totally disappear.
3. Use the values above to determine the local forest fire smoke category.

How long is the smoke going to last?

That depends on a number of factors, including the number of fires in the area, fire behavior, weather and topography. Smoke also can travel long distances, so fires in other areas can affect smoke levels in your area.

I'm concerned about what the smoke is doing to my animals. What can I do?

The same particles that cause problems for people may cause some problems for animals. Don't force your animals to run or work in smoky conditions. Contact your veterinarian or county extension office for more information.

How does smoke harm my health?

One of the biggest dangers of smoke comes from *particulate matter* -- solid particles and liquid droplets found in air. In smoke, these particles often are very tiny, smaller than 2.5 micrometers in diameter. How small is that? Think of this: the diameter of the average human hair is about 30 times bigger.

These particles can build up in your respiratory system, causing a number of health problems, including burning eyes, runny noses and illnesses such as bronchitis. The particles also can aggravate heart and lung diseases, such as congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema and asthma.

Where is the smoke coming from?

It depends on where you are. To find out about smoke in your area, check with your local smoke management unit or health department. In Montana and Idaho, call 406-329-4905. On the Internet, go to www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/Smoke_web_pages/intro.htm.

What about firefighters?

Firefighters do experience short-term effects of smoke, such as stinging, watery eyes, coughing and runny noses. Firefighters must be in good physical condition, which helps to offset adverse effects of smoke. In addition to being affected by particles, firefighters can be affected by carbon monoxide from smoke. A recent Forest Service study showed a very small percentage of firefighters working on wildfires were exposed to levels higher than occupational safety limits for carbon monoxide and irritants. If you are working on a fire and you're concerned about your health, see the medical unit or contact your safety officer. If you're not working on a fire, call your doctor.

Why can't the firefighters do something about the smoke?

Firefighters first priorities in fighting a fire are, by necessity, protecting lives, protecting homes and containing the wildfire. Sometimes the conditions that are good for keeping the air clear of smoke can be bad for containing fires. A windy day, for example, helps smoke disperse. But it can help a fire spread.

Firefighters do try to manage smoke when possible. As they develop their strategies for fighting a fire, firefighters consider fire behavior and weather forecasts, topography and proximity to communities – all factors than can affect smoke.

Why doesn't it seem to be as smoky when firefighters are working on prescribed fires?

Land managers are able to plan for prescribed fires. They get to choose the areas they want to burn, the size of those areas and the weather and wind conditions that must exist before they begin burning. This allows them to control the fire more easily and limit its size. Those choices don't exist with wildfires. In addition, wildfires that start in areas that haven't been managed with prescribed fire often have more fuel, because vegetation in the forest understory has built up, and dead vegetation has not been removed.

How do you measure the quality of the air?

Local air agencies (or sometimes federal land managers) use monitors to measure the amount of particulates in the air. That amount, measured in micrograms per cubic meter, is compared to a national index designed to protect public health.

Will the smoke be this bad every summer?

That depends on where you live and the weather each year. If you live in an area where fire has always been part of the ecosystem, you can expect fire and smoke. The amounts will depend on weather and the amount of fuel (trees, brush, etc.) available to be burned. You can protect yourself and your property by following good fire prevention measures. But we never will eliminate fire and smoke from these natural systems.

This document was prepared by the Air Program, U.S. Forest Service – Northern Region, with assistance from the Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards in the US Environmental Protection Agency. For more information, call 406-329-3493. August 2000.

ATTACHMENT 2

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Satellite Services Division, Smoke Text Product.

Analysis of satellite images and indication of smoke impacts for July 7, 8, and 9, 2007.

Saturday, July 7, 2007

DESCRIPTIVE TEXT NARRATIVE FOR SMOKE/DUST OBSERVED IN SATELLITE IMAGERY
THROUGH 0230Z July 8, 2007

California/Nevada:
The wildfire in Santa Barbara county in the Sierra Madre Mountains is producing a moderately dense to dense smoke plume moving northeast into parts of Ventura, northeast Los Angles, San Luis Obispo, Tulare, and Kings county. Light smoke from this fire spreads as far east as Fresno county and is getting close to reaching Nevada.
The wildfire in Plumas county (Plumas National Forest) is emitting a large area of thick smoke moving northeast into Lassen county. The smoke crosses the border into Nevada and reaches the counties of Washoe, Pershing, and Humboldt.
Two mainly new wildfires in northwest Inyo county (continuing to grow) in the Inyo National Forest are emitting a large area of mostly very dense smoke moving in multiple directions. Most smoke is moving north to northeast into the counties of Nye, Esmeralda, Lincoln, White Pine in Nevada and almost reaching Utah, but cloud cover makes it difficult to see the full extent of the smoke. Smoke from this fire is fanning west into the counties of Tulare and Fresno in southern California.

Oregon/Idaho
Multiple fire in southern Oregon are emitting areas of moderately dense to dense smoke. A fire in the county of Deschutes (Deschutes National Forest) and multiple fires in Harney (Ochoco National Forest) and Grant (Malheur National Forest) counties are spreading smoke across the counties of southern Oregon and into western Idaho.

Arizona/Utah:
A fire in Pima county in southern Arizona (Comobabi Mts near Kitt Peak National Observatory) is producing an area of moderately dense smoke moving southwest into northern Mexico. In northeast Arizona in the county of Mohave (Virgin Mountains) a large area of moderately dense smoke can be seen moving northeast into Washington county in southwest Utah.

Utah:
A huge wildfire in the counties of Millard and Beaver in the Mineral Mountains is producing a very thick area of smoke. The smoke is moving east across the state into the counties Sevier, Plute, Wayne, Emery, San Juan and Grant. This fire continues to grow in size, but the full extent of smoke cannot be seen due to thick cloud cover.

Overall the full extent of smoke across the western U.S is incredible. Multiple wildfires in southern Idaho, northern Nevada, northeast Utah, parts of California, Arizona, Oregon and Montana are contributing to this large mass of smoke. Thick smoke can be seen across parts of northeast California, southwest Idaho, northwest Nevada, eastern Utah, western Colorado, northeast Arizona and northwest New Mexico. Moderately dense smoke is seen across northern Utah, most of Wyoming, northwest Colorado, northern Arizona, southwest Utah and parts of central and eastern Idaho. Light smoke can be seen as far west as Montana. Multiple new fires are seen today due to most likely, but not confirmed lighting strikes from last night thunderstorms blowing up over the western U.S. Once again the full extent of the smoke cannot be seen due to thick cloud cover.

Alaska/Northwest Territories:
Multiple fires burning across Alaska can be seen producing areas of light to moderately dense smoke across the state. Wildfires east of

Great Bear Lake are emitting an area of light to moderately dense smoke moving north NW across the lake and into the northern regions of the Northwest Territories.

Oklahoma/Kansas/Missouri/Texas
Multiple fires (most likely agricultural) across this region are producing area of mostly light smoke moving in a mostly north direction. One fire in the county of Meade in southwest Kansas is emitting an area of moderately dense smoke moving north into the counties of Gray, Ford, Finney and Hodgeman.

J Kibler

Unless otherwise indicated:

- Areas of smoke are analyzed using GOES-EAST and GOES-WEST Visible satellite imagery.
- Only a general description of areas of smoke or significant smoke plumes will be analyzed.
- A quantitative assessment of the density/amount of particulate or the vertical distribution is not included.
- Widespread cloudiness may prevent the detection of smoke even from significant fires.

Friday, July 6, 2007

DESCRIPTIVE TEXT NARRATIVE FOR SMOKE/DUST OBSERVED IN SATELLITE IMAGERY
THROUGH 0230Z July 7, 2007

Arizona/Utah/Nevada
A wildfire in northwest Arizona in Mohave county (Virgin Mountains) is producing an area of moderately dense to dense smoke moving north into Washington and Kane counties Utah. Light smoke fanning towards the northwest can be seen in parts of southwest Utah and southeast Nevada.
A wildfire in north central Utah in Carbon county (near Prince Canyon Rec. Area) is emitting moderately dense smoke north into Wasatch and Utah counties.

California/Oregon:
The wildfire in Santa Barbara county in the Sierra Madre Mountains is emitting an area of very thick smoke northeast into San Luis Obispo, Kern, Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties. This fire has been burning for over a week.
In central California in El Dorado county (El Dorado National Forest) a wildfire is producing an area of moderately dense smoke moving north into Placier, Nevada, Sierra, Yuba, Butte, and Plumas counties.
In Plumas county a fire that continues to grow is producing an area of moderately dense to dense smoke north into Modoc and Lassen counties and into southern Oregon.

Montana/Idaho:
A fire on the border of Teton, Flathead and Lewis and Clark counties (Lewis and Clark National Forest) is emitting an area of moderately dense to dense smoke east into Pondera, Liberty, Chouteau, Toole and Hill counties and even into southeastern Alberta. Light to moderate residual smoke from yesterday is moving into eastern Montana, northeast Wyoming, western North Dakota and South Dakota and into southern Saskatchewan possibly, but not confirmed from this wildfire.
In southeastern Idaho in Bonneville county (near the town of Iona) a fire is producing an area of moderately dense to dense smoke moving north into Madison, Jefferson, Fremont, Clark counties and into southwest Montana.

Wyoming:
Two fires in Carbon county (just north of Seminoe State Park) are emitting an area of moderately dense smoke west NW into Fremont and Natrona counties.

Alaska/Northwest Territories:
Multiple wildfires burning across the state are producing light to moderately dense smoke plumes. Most smoke is moving in an easterly direction.
A wildfire southeast of Great Slave Lake is producing an area of moderately dense to dense smoke moving west across northern portions of the lake. Wildfires between Great Bear Lake and Great Slave Lake are emitting a large area of moderately dense to dense smoke moving west to northwest across Great Bear Lake. The full extent of the smoke from wildfires in Alaska and the Northwest Territories are difficult to see due to the large area of cloud cover.

J Kibler

Unless otherwise indicated:

- Areas of smoke are analyzed using GOES-EAST and GOES-WEST Visible satellite imagery.
- Only a general description of areas of smoke or significant smoke plumes will be analyzed.
- A quantitative assessment of the density/amount of particulate or the vertical distribution is not included.
- Widespread cloudiness may prevent the detection of smoke even from significant fires.

Saturday, July 7, 2007

DESCRIPTIVE TEXT NARRATIVE FOR SMOKE/DUST OBSERVED IN SATELLITE IMAGERY
THROUGH 1430Z July 7, 2007

Utah: A massive fire straddling the Millard/Beaver county border has emitted a large amount of smoke which presently covers all of the eastern half of Utah and bordering portions of Colorado and Arizona. This may be mixed with residue smoke from a wildfire in northwest Arizona in Mohave county that is only producing light smoke which is mostly over northern Arizona and southwest Utah.

California/Oregon/Idaho/Nevada:
A large area of smoke from a fire in northern Plumas county in northern California is covering much of southeast Oregon, extreme northeast California and northwest Nevada, and southern Idaho through the Snake River Valley. Some light smoke may extend as far as western Wyoming. Smoke from a fire in Inyo county near the Fresno county border in California extends northward into western Nevada. The wildfire in Santa Barbara county in the Sierra Madre Mountains is emitting a thin plume of smoke northward across eastern San Luis Obispo and western Kern counties. Small fires in northern Pershing county and in northern Elko county in Nevada are producing little smoke.

Alaska/Northwest Territories:
Smoke appears to have dissipated over most of Alaska but some some covers northern Yukon in Canada and the northwestern portion of the Northwest Territory from fires in those locations.

Baldwin

Unless otherwise indicated:

- Areas of smoke are analyzed using GOES-EAST and GOES-WEST Visible satellite imagery.
- Only a general description of areas of smoke or significant smoke plumes will be analyzed.
- A quantitative assessment of the density/amount of particulate or the vertical distribution is not included.
- Widespread cloudiness may prevent the detection of smoke even from significant fires.

Sunday, July 8, 2007

DESCRIPTIVE TEXT NARRATIVE FOR SMOKE/DUST OBSERVED IN SATELLITE IMAGERY
THROUGH 1445Z July 8, 2007

South Dakota:
A fire in southwestern South Dakota in Fall River county is producing smoke but the extent is undetermined because of weather clouds in the region.

Four Corners region:
Smoke from fires in southern Utah in Millard county, and northwest Arizona in northern Mohave county, appear to have combined to form a large area of thick smoke over western Colorado and northwest New Mexico west of the Rockies, as well as lighter smoke in eastern Utah and northeastern Arizona.

California/Nevada/Oregon:
Again...a very large area of light to moderate smoke is the result of the combination of smoke from fires in northern California (Plumas county), southeastern Oregon (northern Harney county), and northern Nevada (Humboldt and Pershing counties). This smoke covers parts of northern California and southeast Oregon, and most of northern Nevada, southern Idaho, northern Utah and all of Wyoming. The ongoing fire in Santa Barbara county in souther California is producing very little smoke.

Washington:
Two fires in southeast Chelan county and Yakima county in south-central Washington are producing small plumes of smoke to the southeast.

Alaska/Canada:

Smoke continues to emanate from a fire in west-central Alaska in Yukon-Koyukuk county. Also, smoke covers much of northern Yukon province and western Northwest Territory west of the Great Bear Lake.

Baldwin

Unless otherwise indicated:

- Areas of smoke are analyzed using GOES-EAST and GOES-WEST Visible satellite imagery.
- Only a general description of areas of smoke or significant smoke plumes will be analyzed.
- A quantitative assessment of the density/amount of particulate or the vertical distribution is not included.
- Widespread cloudiness may prevent the detection of smoke even from significant fires.

Sunday, July 8, 2007

DESCRIPTIVE TEXT NARRATIVE FOR SMOKE/DUST OBSERVED IN SATELLITE IMAGERY
THROUGH 0230Z July 9, 2007

Western US:
A large number of wildfires across much of the western US are producing a large mass of smoke that blankets much of the region. The fires are most numerous in Nevada, Utah and southern Idaho but additional fires are seen across California, Oregon, Washington, western Montana, southwest Colorado and Arizona. The smoke covers most of the northern half of California and extends eastward across the northern half of Nevada, all but the southwest corner of Utah, most of Colorado, and the southeastern half of Wyoming. The area of smoke then turns to the northeast across the northwest half of Nebraska and southeast South Dakota into southwest Minnesota. An area of smoke also drops south along the New Mexico/Texas border area. Much of this area if moderate to dense smoke.

Separate smoke plumes from this main area are also seen from fires in central Oregon along the Harney/Crook county border. This plume is very dense and extends to the southeast just reaching the Idaho border. Another blaze in Chelan county in Washington has a plume of dense smoke extending to the southeast and east into the eastern portion of the state.

The wildfire in Santa Barbara county in the Sierra Madre Mountains is producing a moderately dense to dense smoke plume moving north into San Luis Obispo and south across Santa Barbara reaching the coast. The thickest smoke is moving north.

A fire in northwest Mohave county is producing a thick plume of smoke extending to the east across northern Coconino county.

A fire in southeast Flathead county in northwest Montana has a plume of light to moderately dense smoke extending to the east reaching southwest Blaine county.

Alaska/Northwest Territories:
Multiple fires, mainly burning across west central Alaska, are producing areas of moderately dense to dense smoke across west central Alaska around Galena. Wildfires around Great Bear Lake are emitting light to moderately dense smoke moving northwest across the lake and into the northwest corner of the Northwest Territories. An area of smoke extends into the Arctic Ocean near Mackenzie Bay.

Ruminski

Unless otherwise indicated:

- Areas of smoke are analyzed using GOES-EAST and GOES-WEST Visible satellite imagery.
- Only a general description of areas of smoke or significant smoke plumes will be analyzed.
- A quantitative assessment of the density/amount of particulate or the vertical distribution is not included.

- Widespread cloudiness may prevent the detection of smoke even from significant fires.

ATTACHMENT 3

News Release from U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service. July 6, 2007.

News Release

United States Department of
Agriculture - Forest Service

Plumas National Forest
P. O. Box 11500
Quincy, California 95971

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 6, 2007 AM

Contact:
Lee Anne Schramel Taylor, (530) 283-7850/283-7890
News Release #07-31

Lightning Update

A series of lightning strikes late in the afternoon on Thursday, July 5, are responsible for starting over a dozen fires on the Plumas National Forest in northeastern California.

Collectively called the Antelope Complex, the largest of the fires is dubbed the Wheeler Fire, pegged at 1,000 acres late Thursday night. The remaining fires are small. The Antelope Complex is approximately 12 airmiles northeast of Taylorsville and 5-6 airmiles south of Antelope Lake.

Campgrounds in the Antelope Lake area and some scattered summer residences were evacuated as a precaution Thursday evening. Forest road 29N43 is closed between Flournoy Road and Antelope Lake Dam. There are no other homes or communities threatened currently.

Additional fire fighting resources, including a Type 2 Team, are arriving to assist local firefighters.

The Wheeler Fire is expected to actively burn through the night with acreage increases expected.

Dry lightning is forecast for Friday and Saturday.

Information will be updated mid Friday morning. Please check inciweb.org at that time.

-end-

ATTACHMENT 4

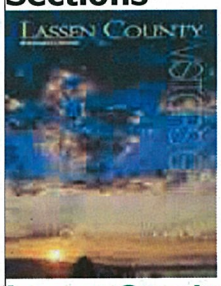
News/Media Coverage of Antelope/Wheeler Complex Fire.

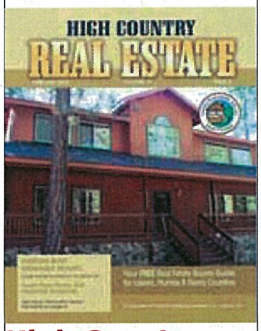
REALTY WORLD
LASSEN LAND & HOMES

Lassen County News
On-Line news and information for Lassen County California & Surrounding areas
Lassennews.com

Friday April 17, 2009

New Feature: Buy Photos! Click to shop our photo library
- Buy Photos





Wheeler Fire: Town meeting and a chance to retrieve belongings Monday, July 9

Posted on Friday, July 06 @ 09:43:57 PDT

BREAKING NEWS

A town meeting is planned tonight at 7 p.m. at the Janesville Elementary Middle School gymnasium on Main Street in Janesville. Representatives of the County Office of Emergency Services and the Antelope Complex Incident Commander will be on hand to discuss fire activity, operations, and outlook as well as evacuation plans with members of the public. No evacuations are currently in place for the Janesville and Milford areas. However, a contingency plan has been prepared to provide adequate time for residents should it become necessary. Residents should prepare personal effects in advance, as well as plan to take livestock to the Lassen County Fairgrounds. Campers who left equipment at evacuated campsites around Antelope Lake as well as evacuated residents in the Hungry Creek, Frank Valley, Taylor Lake and Wilcox Valley areas will be permitted into the fire area at 9 a.m. Monday, July 9.

See new maps inside article...

The California Highway Patrol will escort them from the checkpoint on Genesee-Antelope Lake Road to campsites and residences for the immediate retrieval of personal property.

The same opportunity will be available through Wednesday, unless fire behavior prohibits entry. Affected members of the public should call 283-7882 or 283-7883 for more information.

Firefighting forces on the Antelope Complex have grown to over 1,300 personnel. Despite a challenging afternoon burning period Sunday, July 8, 21 percent containment has been achieved. Though most flanks saw growth on Sunday, winds out of the north limited fire spread on the northern perimeter toward the 395 corridor.

Dozers made significant progress on containment lines on the northeast section that afternoon. Structure protection of cabins in the fire area has continued to be successful.

The Wheeler Fire has grown to 18,100 acres and has no estimate of containment.

Firefighters continued to work throughout the night. They represent a significant part of the operational strategy by securing containment line and burning out fuels as appropriate overnight, making success during the day more achievable.

A contingency plan has been prepared to provide adequate time for residents should it become necessary to evacuate in the Janesville and Milford areas. A town meeting is planned for Monday night at 7 p.m. at the Janesville Elementary Middle School gymnasium on Main Street in Janesville.

Representatives of the County Office of Emergency Services and the Antelope Complex Incident Commander will be on hand to discuss fire activity, operations and outlook as well as evacuation plans with members of the public.

The chance of thunderstorms entering the area is also increasing for Monday and Tuesday. This includes the possibility of dry lightning Monday and a chance of accompanying rain by Tuesday.

Wind events associated with thunder cells that do not bring wetting rain could significantly hamper containment efforts, or cause new fire starts in the area.

Related Stories
- More Stories in 'Breaking News'
- News by lcnnews

Most Read Story in 'Breaking News'
Moonlight turns to ash, mandatory evacuations in place

Other News In 'Breaking News'

Printer Page
E-mail to a Friend

Lassen News
Headlines
Sports
Classifieds
Real Estate
Automotive
Center

Advertise With US CLICK

Classified Ad Network
View all classifieds in California

Real Estate Guide

54°F 10:42 AM
Weather Underground

"Click for Susanville, California Forecast"

=

Feather Publishing Newspapers

Contact Info below

- **Lassen County Times**
- **Westwood PinePress**
- **Plumas County News**

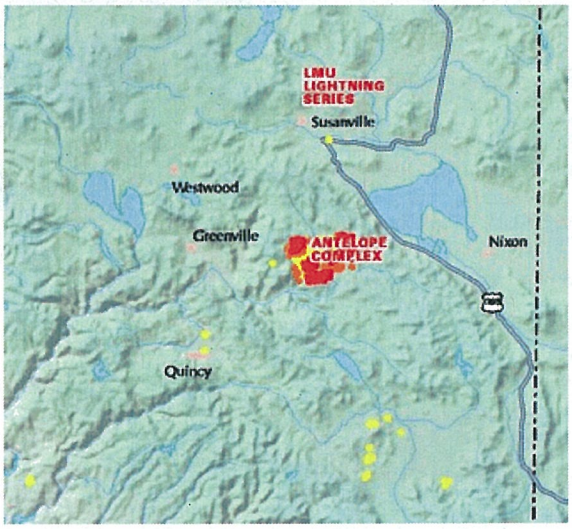
Road Conditions

- **Lassen County**
- **Plumas County**

Weather

- **Susanville**
- **Westwood**
- **Portola**
- **Quincy**
- **Chester**
- **Greenville**

- Submit News



For a very detailed map of the fire boundary (848 k) click here

Back to top

All images and or text are the property of Lassen On-line News Services and may not be reproduced stored or retransmitted in any way without prior written permission from an authorized company representative. Copyrighted 1996-2000
All logos and trademarks in this site are property of their respective owner. The comments are property of their posters, all the rest
© 2000 Feather Publishing Co., Inc.

Search

Lassennews.com Site User Options.
Recommend this Site | Banner Client Login

The Web Site of The Sacramento Bee

This story is taken from Sacbee / News.

Winds blow Plumas fire toward cabins and lake

-

Published 12:00 am PDT Sunday, July 8, 2007

A lightning-sparked fire had charred 14,700 acres of forestlands south of Antelope Lake by late Saturday.

Strong winds drove the flames east and north, blowing embers that started new fires as much as half a mile from the main fire, said Angie Dillingham, a Plumas National Forest fire information officer.

By Saturday afternoon the Antelope Complex fire had reached the south shore of the popular Plumas County recreation reservoir.

Firefighters working on the east side of the fire were focusing their efforts on protecting the handful of cabins in its path, Dillingham said.

On the north flank, firefighters burned the vegetation ahead of the flames to eliminate the fuels and halt the fire's progress.

The mountain ridges 20 miles northeast of Quincy were hit by a series of dry lightning strikes Thursday afternoon. Six small fires were quickly contained, but the largest, the Wheeler fire, was only 10 percent contained by Saturday night, according to the U.S. Forest Service. Agency officials said they hope it is contained by Thursday.

No structures have been lost and none of the more than 640 firefighters has been injured, Dillingham said.

-- Jane Braxton Little

Go to: Sacbee / Back to story

This article is protected by copyright and should not be printed or distributed for anything except personal use.
The Sacramento Bee, 2100 Q St., P.O. Box 15779, Sacramento, CA 95852
Phone: (916) 321-1000

Copyright © The Sacramento Bee

TheUnion.com
Great People Connecting Communities

[Close Window]

Plumas County fire raging

Evacuations possible for two towns

By Dave Moller
Staff Writer, davem@theunion.com
» More from Dave Moller
11:55 a.m. PT Jul 8, 2007

Evacuation plans were being drawn late Sunday for two small towns endangered by the Antelope Complex fire in Plumas County, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

The 14,700 acre fire was only 10 percent contained and producing a huge plume of smoke, according to Terri Simon-Jackson of the Plumas National Forest. The blaze reached the south shore of popular Antelope Lake Saturday, causing the evacuation of an unknown number of campers and neighboring homes.

An evacuation plan is being prepared for the Lassen County towns of Janesville and Milford along Highway 395 seven miles to the east of the fire, Simon-Jackson said. Residents of that area with livestock are being told to make plans to evacuate them, according to Forest Service spokesperson Jill Poulsen.

The blaze is about 70 miles air miles northeast of Grass Valley, midway between Portola in Plumas County and Susanville in Lassen County. Numerous lightning strikes sparked a number of fires Thursday, which merged into the Antelope Complex.

There are no fire-retardant bombers assigned to the blaze because they are in use on other fires in the western U.S., Simon-Jackson said. Two water-drop helicopters are at the scene, but can only fly sporadically because of the large amount of smoke in the area.

There are 828 firefighters on site who have knocked down numerous spot fires caused by flying embers from the main complex, Simon-Jackson said. The fire is raging through extremely dry fuels, which is causing the vast smoke plume and making the blaze hard to contain.

No structures have been lost but firefighters were busy keeping several cabins at the lake free from fire, Simon-Jackson said. There have been no injuries.

The fire area is closed from Highway 395 to the east, Taylor Lake to the west, Red Clover Creek to the south and to the Plumas-Lassen national forests border to the north.

Plumas County fire clouds Truckee-Tahoe skies

Officials fear lightning strikes could cause more evacuations near Susanville

BY DAVE MOLLER
SUN NEWS SERVICE,

A 14,700-acre wildfire burning north of Truckee in Plumas County is clouding Truckee skies with smoke, and spurring evacuations near Susanville.

The wildfire, which was touched off by lightning on Thursday, is only 10 percent contained and producing a huge plume of smoke, according to Terri Simon-Jackson of the Plumas National Forest. The blaze reached the south shore of popular Antelope Lake Saturday, causing the evacuation of an unknown number of campers and neighboring homes.

An evacuation plan is being prepared for the Lassen County towns of Janesville and Milford along Highway 395 seven miles to the east of the fire, Simon-Jackson said at noon. The evacuation could be triggered if expected dry lightning strikes create more fire in the area this afternoon.

The blaze is about 70 miles air miles northeast of Grass Valley, midway between Portola in Plumas County and Susanville in Lassen County. Numerous lightning strikes sparked a number of fires Thursday, which merged into the Antelope Complex.

There are no fire-retardant bombers assigned to the blaze because they are in use on other fires in the western U.S., Simon-Jackson said. Two water-drop helicopters are at the scene, but can only fly sporadically because of the large amount of smoke in the area.

There are 828 firefighters on site who have knocked down numerous spot fires caused by flying embers from the main complex, Simon-Jackson said. The fire is raging through extremely dry fuels, which is causing the vast smoke plume and making the blaze hard to contain.

The fire area is closed from Highway 395 to the east, Taylor Lake to the west, Red Clover Creek to the south and to the Plumas-Lassen national forests border to the north.

---

http://www.sierrasun.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070708/NEWS/70708001&parentprofile=search&template=printart

Plumas blaze firefighters fear storms

Small town evacuation plans in place

BY DAVE MOLLER
SUN NEWS SERVICE,

Bulldozers and back fires produced progress on the Antelope Complex fire in Plumas County Sunday, but possible thunderstorms could bring more trouble.

The fire 70 miles north of Grass Valley has now grown to 18,100 acres, but is 21 percent contained, according to Lee Anne Schramel Taylor of the Plumas National Forest.

Almost 1,400 firefighters are expected to make more progress on the fire today, but late afternoon thunderstorms with dry lightning and strong winds could cause the blaze to grow again.

Smoky conditions and falling ash from the fire are expected south and east of the blaze today over the Plumas County towns of Portola, Greenville and Quincy.

Residents of the small towns of Janesville and Milford on Highway 395 about seven miles from the fire have been alerted an evacuation could occur. They have been told to prepare personal things in advance and to take their livestock to the Lassen County Fairgrounds if it comes.

Campers that were evacuated from Antelope Lake after the fire broke out Thursday were permitted to enter the blaze area with CHP escort this morning to retrieve things they were forced to leave behind, Schramel Taylor said.

Nine helicopters are now helping douse the blaze, but extremely smoky conditions could hamper their efforts.

---

http://www.sierrasun.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070709/NEWS/70709004&parentprofile=search&template=printart

<<Back

PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST

Over 18,000 Acres Torched in Plumas National Forest, 21-Percent Contained

July 9, 2007 07:55 AM

Courtesy USFS

Courtesy USFS

Courtesy Feather Publishing

July 9th, 2007

Firefighting forces on the Antelope Complex have grown to over 1,300 personnel. Despite a challenging afternoon burning period, 21-percent containment has been achieved.

Though most flanks of the fire saw growth on Sunday, winds out of the north limited fire spread on the northern perimeter toward the 395 corridor.

Dozers made significant progress on containment lines on the northeast section this afternoon. Structure protection of cabins in the fire area has continued to be successful.

The Wheeler Fire has grown to 18,100 acres and has no estimate of containment.

Firefighters will continue to work throughout the night. They represent a significant part of the operational strategy by securing containment line and burning out fuels as appropriate overnight, making success during the day more achievable.

A contingency plan has been prepared to provide adequate time for residents should it become necessary to evacuate in the Janesville and Milford areas. A town meeting is planned for Monday night at 7 p.m. at the Janesville Elementary Middle School gymnasium on Main Street in Janesville.

Representatives of the County Office of Emergency Services and the Antelope Complex Incident Commander will be on hand to discuss fire activity, operations, and outlook as well as evacuation plans with members of the public.

Campers that left equipment at evacuated campsites around Antelope Lake as well as evacuated residents in the Hungry Creek, Frank Valley, Taylor Lake, and Wilcox Valley will also be permitted into the fire area at 9:00 a.m. Monday.

They will be escorted by CHP from the checkpoint on Genesee-Antelope Lake Road to campsites and residences for the immediate retrieval of personal property.

The same opportunity will be available through Wednesday, unless fire behavior prohibits entry.

Affected members of the public should call (530) 283-7882 or (530) 283-7883 for more information.

July 8th, 2007

Over 800 firefighters are working hard this afternoon to check the spread of the difficult Wheeler Fire, which continues to challenge containment efforts during the afternoon burning period this Sunday. Over 18,000 acres have burned and there is no estimate of containment.

Although prevailing winds have been light today and thunderstorms have not materialized, afternoon warming has increased fire activity on all flanks, particularly when it burns upslope.

On the western edge, the fire is entering the area of last year's Hungry Fire, which could help reduce the fire intensity. The fire is also active on the northwest corner west of Antelope Lake. Dozers are working to build containment lines near the northeast flank this afternoon.

As of 4 p.m., firefighters have been able to keep the fire west of Clarks Creek. Previously burned areas of the Boulder Fire as well as fuel treatment areas around Doctor Smith Flat may assist in controlling fire growth along the northeast corner.

A contingency plan is being prepared to provide adequate time for residents should it become necessary to evacuate in areas east of the fire. It is advisable for residents to develop a plan for critical items to take, and how to contact family or friends.

If additional evacuations become necessary, they will be announced through the media, sheriff's office, CHP, and other agencies and organizations. Citizens with livestock should consider now where to take them in the event of an evacuation.

Web Address for updated information - www.inciweb.org

A California Type 1 Management Team under Incident Commander Jeanne Pincha-Tulley assumed management of the Antelope Complex at 6:00 p.m. Saturday.

They are implementing a revised firefighting strategy since the fire has crossed containment lines for two days in a row. Unseasonably high temperatures, low humidity, steep terrain, and winds are fueling fire behavior typical of late summer.

The revised strategy allows firefighters to better manage the Wheeler Fire in a safer and more effective manner. This new strategy will focus on burning out from roads, natural barriers, and prior fuel treatment areas during the evening hours and holding during the day.

An area closure remains in effect in an approximately 60 square miles around Antelope Lake to ensure public safety. There are no current evacuations in the Janesville and Milford area. However, an evacuation contingency plan is being prepared to provide adequate evacuation time for residents should it become necessary.

It is advisable for residents to develop a plan for critical items to take, and how to contact family or friends. If additional evacuations become necessary, they will be announced through the media, sheriff's office, CHP, and other agencies and organizations.

Citizens with livestock should consider now where to take them in the event of an evacuation.

Campers that left equipment at evacuated campsites can retrieve it at 9:00 a.m. Monday. They will be escorted by CHP from the checkpoint on Genesee-Antelope Lake Road to the campsites and must immediately remove their equipment.

The same opportunity will be available through Wednesday, unless fire behavior prohibits entry.

The fire has burned 14,700 acres and is estimated at 10-percent contained. 828 fire fighters are currently on-scene.

Smoke and ash will likely continue to be present at times in many areas near the fire, especially

along the 395 corridor and as evening inversions push smoke downslope.

A chance of lightning storms this afternoon could create gusty winds which could spread the fire more quickly. Without any storms, the fire is anticipated to move between .5 miles on many flanks to as much as 1.5 miles on the northeast flank.

Web Address for updated information - www.inciweb.org

Greg Knight, News 4

More than a dozen lightning hits have sparked fires in the Plumas National Forest northwest of Reno. The fires are 12 miles north of Taylorsville, CA.

Smoke from the fire drifted into the northern parts of Reno on Friday morning. The largest in this group of fires, known as the Antelope Complex, is the Wheeler Fire.

The Forest Service says that fire has burned over 11,500 acres. Over 600 personnel are there to fight the flames.

News 4 spoke with Plumas County Supervisor Bob Meacher about the fire. He says "some homes on the southeast side of Antelope Lake burned on Friday night," but "firefighters were able to drop retardant to stave off the blaze."

Meacher also says the fire will adversely affect the watershed in Plumas County because of smoke and ash from the fire.

Firefighters say no homes are threatened at this time, but some campgrounds in the Antelope Lake area and some vacation homes were evacuated as a precaution. Forest road 29N43 is also closed.

A Type 2 firefighting team has joined local firefighters in their efforts to fight the blazes.

The Forest Service says it expects their firefighting activities to be active, and there is more lightning in the forecast for Saturday.

WorldNow

All content © Copyright 2001 - 2009 WorldNow and KRNV. All Rights Reserved.
For more information on this site, please read our Privacy Policy and Terms of Service.

<<Back

Antelope Complex Fires Grow to 14,700 Acres in Plumas Nat'l. Forest

Updated: July 10, 2007 07:03 PM

Arash Mosaleh
Channel 2 News

The Antelope Complex of fires continues to burn in the Plumas National Forest in Northern California, sending smoke into the skies above the Truckee Meadows. The fire has burned 14,700 acres and is 10 percent contained as of Sunday morning.

The complex is comprised of the Wheeler Fire and a few smaller ones which are now contained. The Wheeler Fire, however, continues to burn. The Antelope Complex is about 14 miles northeast of Taylorsville in northern California.

The fire has burned up to the southern shore of Antelope Lake, as well as the east side of the lake. Campgrounds around the lake have been evacuated just as a precaution. There are scattered cabins around the east shore of the lake--firefighters are providing structure protection on those homes. The fire has not destroyed any homes

About 830 firefighters are working to get a handle on the fire, with more resources and firefighters expected in the near future. Firefighters are battling the blaze by air and by land.

Lightning sparked the fire in the late afternoon on Thursday, July 5.

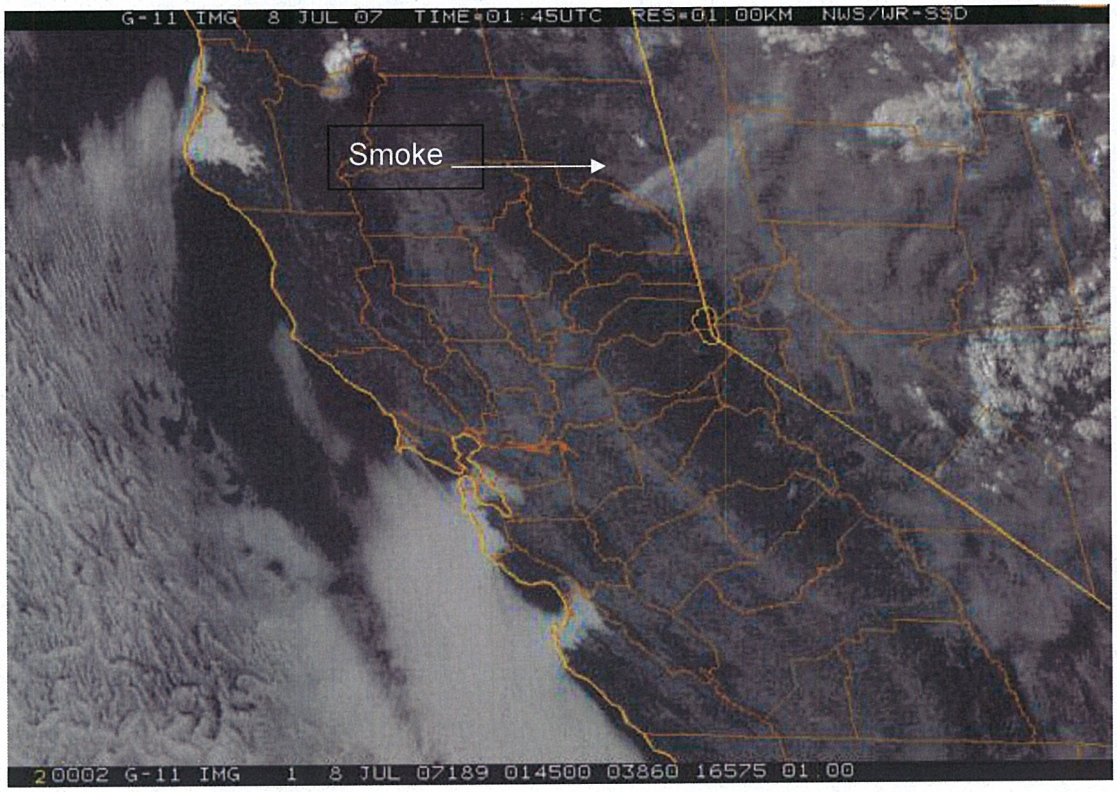
WorldNow

All content © Copyright 2000 - 2009 WorldNow and Sarkes Tarzian, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
For more information on this site, please read our Privacy Policy and Terms of Service. EEO Report Forms: A, C, H
Organizations can request to be notified of all KTVN job openings. Please click here.

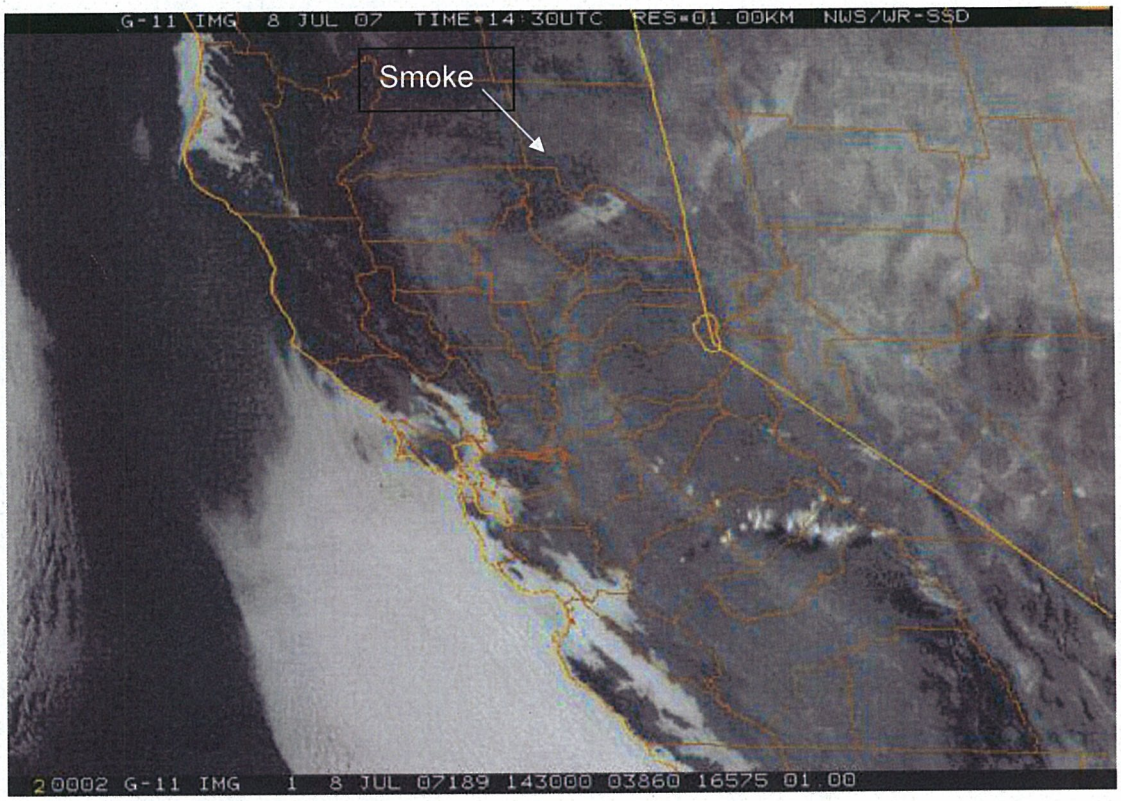
ATTACHMENT 5

Satellite and Google Earth Images of Antelope/Wheeler Complex Fire.

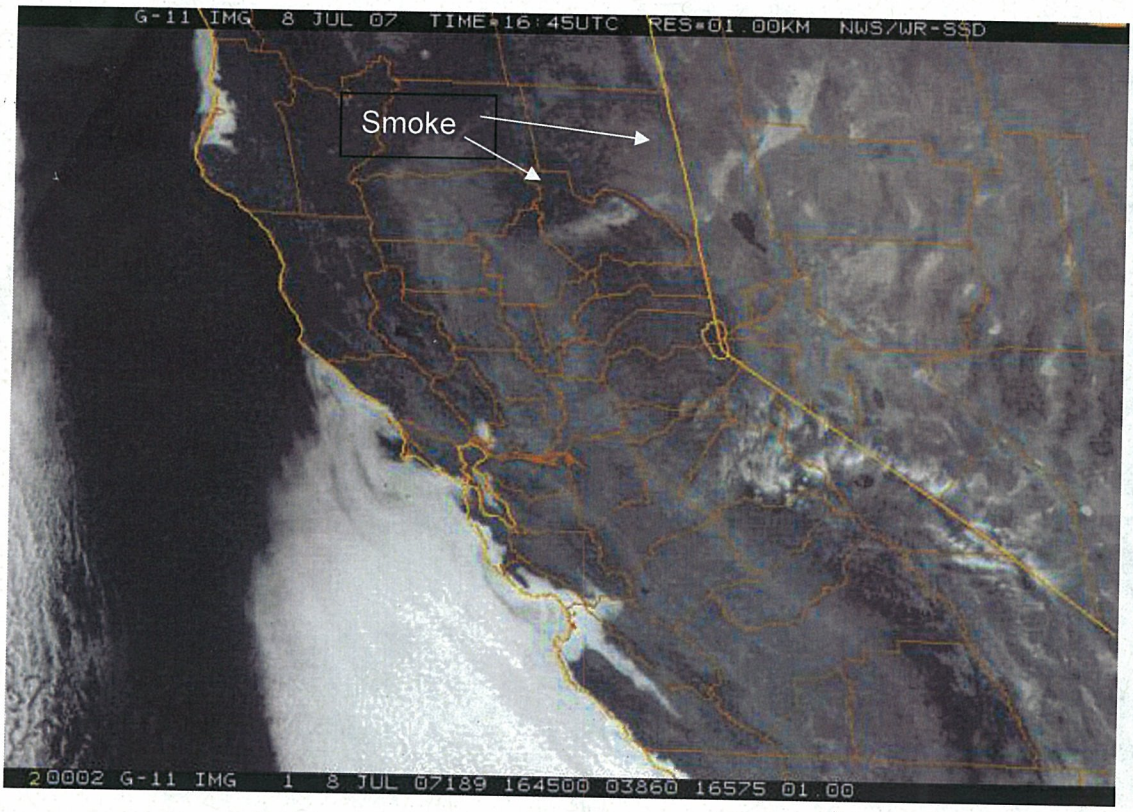
GOES-11 Satellite Image – July 8, 2007 0145 UTC (6:45 p.m., PDT, July 7, 2007)



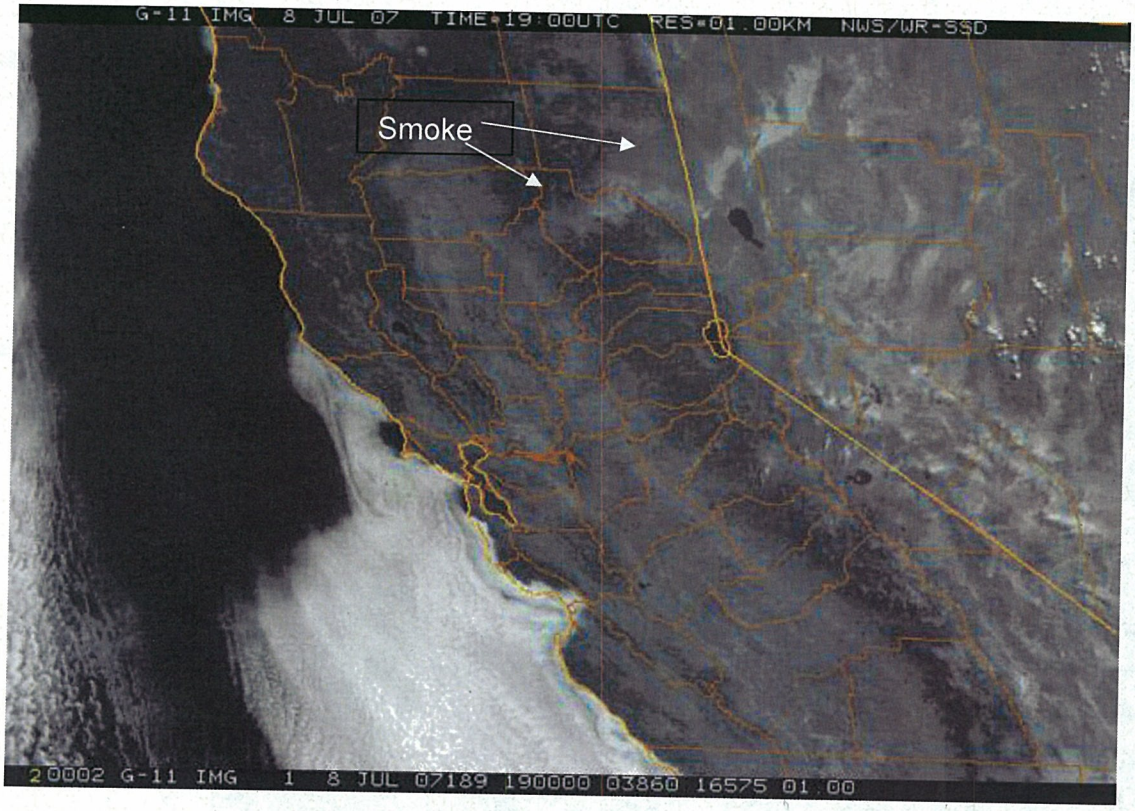
GOES-11 Satellite Image – July 8, 2007 1430 UTC (7:30 a.m. PDT, July 8, 2007)



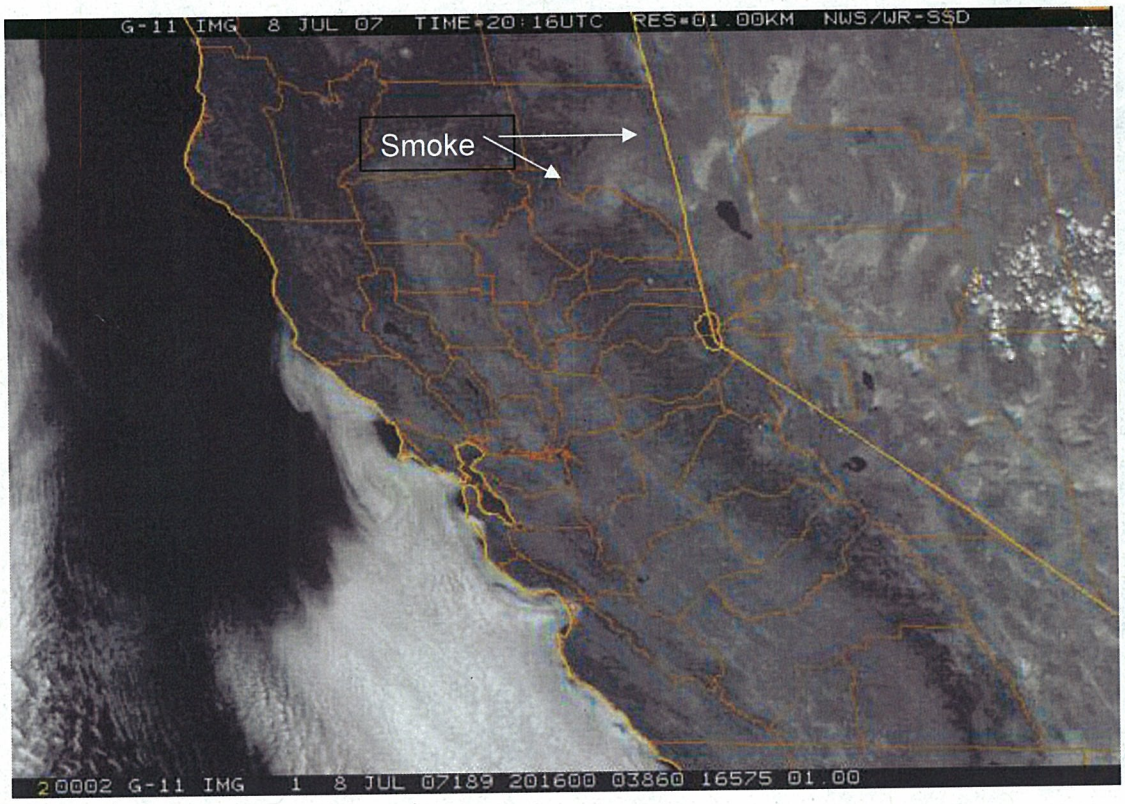
GOES-11 Satellite Image – July 8, 2007 1645 UTC (9:45 a.m., PDT, July 8, 2007)



GOES-11 Satellite Image – July 8, 2007 1900 UTC (12 noon, PDT, July 8, 2007)



GOES-11 Satellite Image – July 8, 2007 2016 UTC (1:16 p.m., PDT, July 8, 2007)



MODIS Satellite Image – July 9, 2007 11:37 a.m. PDT