Air Quality and Health Burden of 2017 Northern California Wildfires

Susan O’Neill, Minghui Diao
NASA HAQAST Tiger Team Update
1/3/2019, Phoenix, Arizona
Co-Authors: 67 HAQAST Members, Stakeholders, Contributors

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CONTRIBUTORS: Leland Tarnay (USDA Forest Service Region 5 Remote Sensing Lab – CA), Yasmine Sands (USDA Forest Service, PNW Research Station Public Affairs Specialist), Rupa Basu (California EPA, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment), Yufei Zou (University of Washington), Sean Raffuse (University of California, Davis), Pawan Gupta (NASA, ARSET), Ernesto Alvarado (University of Washington), Daegan Miller (University of Wisconsin), Elena Becerril (University of Washington), Emily Saunders (NASA), Gina Wing (USDA Forest Service), Greg Osterman (NASA JPL), Maggie McCallister (Princeton), Marlin Martinez (University of Washington), Ruiz Wang (Princeton), Stephanie Cleland (UNC)
34 Agencies and Universities

- George Mason University
- San Jose State University
- Georgia Tech
- Princeton
- Columbia University
- University of California, Riverside
- University of California, Davis
- University of Colorado
- University of North Carolina
- Boston University
- University of Wisconsin
- NOAA National Weather Service
- NOAA Earth Systems Research Lab
- EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
- EPA Office of Research and Development
- EPA National Health and Environmental Effects Research Lab
- EPA Region 9
- Bay Area Air Quality Control District
- Center for Disease Control
- California Air Resources Board
- California EPA
- Clark County Air Quality
- California Department of Public Health
- American Cancer Society
- NASA Jet Propulsion Lab
- NASA ARSET
- NASA Ames Research Center
- NASA Marshall Space Flight Center
- USDA Forest Service PNW Research Station
- USDA Forest Service Fire & Aviation Management
- USDA Forest Service Region 5
- USDA Forest Service Remote Sensing Lab
- US DOI National Park Service
About the Project

• Major Components
  • Fire Emission Inventory (MODIS, VIIRS, GOES-16)
  • Air Quality Modeling (WRF/CMAQ/Dispersion)
  • Satellite Observations to Improve and Evaluate Model Predictions (AOD, CO, NH3)
  • Health Impact Analysis

• Project Organization – Seven sub-teams with Leads
  • Fire Emission Inventory & Modeling – Susan O’Neill (USDA FS)
  • Dispersion and Plume Rise – Joe Wilkins (EPA)
  • Satellite and Data Fusion – Mohammad Al-Hamdán (USRA)
  • Health Impacts – Jason West (UNC), Pat Kinney (Boston University)

• Communications
  • Monthly Stakeholder Calls
  • Sub-team calls more often
  • Google Docs, data storage, Webpage

- Wildfires ignited Oct 8, 2017 resulted in approximately 7 million people across Northern California exposed to unhealthy and worse air quality conditions for a 9-day period.
Sub-team 1: Fire Emissions

1) GOES-16 Based Time Profile
   - Allocate counts of GOES-16 five minute pixel detections within 2-km of each fire perimeter (from GeoMAC)
   - Aggregate by hour by fire
   - Apply loess smoothing
   - Assign resulting hourly fractional count to total area acquired from CalFire


HAQAST Contributor: Sean Raffuse, UC Davis
HAQAST Member: Susan O’Neill, USDA Forest Service
Sub-team 1: Fire Emissions

Daily Acres Burned and PM2.5 Emissions

October 2017 Acres Burned

October 2017 Fire Emissions (PM2.5)

198,867 acres burned for the 5 major Northern CA fires

48,938 tons of PM2.5 emissions

HAQAST Contributor: Sean Raffuse, UC Davis
HAQAST Member: Susan O’Neill, USDA Forest Service
HAQAST Stakeholder/Contributor: BAAQCD
Sub-team 1: Fire emission modeling

CMAQ Air Quality Modeling

- Fire emissions processed through SMOKE and combined with existing anthropogenic emissions estimates for 2016
- WRF and CMAQ run for a 4-km resolution modeling domain
CMAQ Air Quality Modeling Results

Daily Average PM2.5 for 16 Bay Area Sites

San Francisco Bay Area Average 24 hr PM2.5 Observation and CMAQv5.2 Comparison

HAQAST Stakeholder/Contributor: Bay Area Air Quality Control District
CMAQ Air Quality Modeling Results

CMAQ and observed 24-hour PM2.5 at representative sites.

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CMAQ Air Quality Modeling Results

CMAQ and observed 24-hour PM2.5 at representative sites.

Vallejo

Oakland West

HAQAST Stakeholder/Contributor: Bay Area Air Quality Control District
CMAQ Air Quality Modeling Results

October 9, 2017

CMAQ 24 hr average FRM_PM2.5 overlaid with AQS observations

Satellite imagery from Worldview

HAQAST Stakeholder/Contributor: Bay Area Air Quality Control District
Sub-team 2: Satellite and data fusion
MODIS AOD and Surface PM2.5

- MODIS AOD data can be used to identify high PM2.5 surface concentrations from the wildfire event.
- Issues over the ocean are due to B-spline smoothing algorithm, and next step will examine other smoothing algorithms.
Sub-team 3: Meteorological Analysis & High Resolution Dispersion Modeling

- Complex Terrain
- HRRR 3-km wind field
- Using hourly maps, the measured PM2.5 Concentration field (hour-by-hour) follows well with the 10-meter flow pattern
- In this figure of Oct 13 2017, high concentrations are associated with weak winds, indicating that smoke may remain in the area for a few days after being blown into those areas from fires.

HAQAST Member: Frank Freedman, SJSU
PM2.5 Monitoring Data – Historical Tool

• Stakeholder Request: California EPA and others
  • How does 2017 compare to other years?
  • How do PM2.5 concentrations vary with location?

• Cumulative PM2.5 per year
  • Blue = 2017
  • Red = 2018
  • Gray = 2005-2016 (depending on data availability)

• Number of Days in AQI Category

• Interactive Tool: https://tools.airfire.org/historical/
• In-depth analysis for northern California: https://haze.airfire.org/bluesky-daily/output/temp_susan/HAQAST/ObservationalDataAnalysis/

HAQAST Member: USDA Forest Service, AirFire Team
IMPROVE/Chemical Speciation Network (CSN): San Jose, California 1/2016 – 9/2018, Peak 10/13/2017

[Graph and map showing data and concentrations over time]

HAQAST Contributor: UC Davis
Sub-team 4: Plume Rise

- Plume Rise sub-team
- Lead: Joe Wilkins, EPA
- Opportunity to bring together multiple remotely-sensed and modeled datasets
  - CATS, CALIOP, MAIAC, MISR, FRP
- Briggs, Sofiev, Frietas
- See Joe Wilkins talk (this session)

Example Flint Hills 16 March 2017
boundary layer height importance

NOTE: Model run and figure generated using on-line NOAA Air Resources Laboratory HYSPLIT model (Rolph, 2003).
Sub-team 5: Health Impacts

• Stakeholder Communication & Outreach
  • California EPA
  • American Cancer Society
  • California Department of Public Health
  • EPA, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Lab
  • UC Davis, School of Medicine

• Hospital health records – California EPA

Photos: Kat Navarro, Rob Elleman, Janice Peterson
Communications – Project Website

https://sites.google.com/firenet.gov/wfaqrp-airfire/projects/haqast/2017NorthernCAWildfiresTT
## Communications – Google Share

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Communications – Datasets

https://haze.airfire.org/bluesky-daily/output/temp_susan/HAQAST/
Continuing Work

• 4 Months into the project
• Continued work on all project components
• Online Satellite Training Module for Smoke Forecasters Deployed with Incident Management Teams
• Conferences
  • International Association Wildland Fire, Fire Safety and Human Dimensions, Asheville, NC, December 2018
  • International Association Wildland Fire, Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference, Boise, Idaho, April 2019
  • Air Waste Management Association, Wildfires and Air Quality, Santa Rosa, CA, February 2019
  https://www.awma.org/wildfires
Thank you!

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