

Burning Issues Workshop 2021 – Covid Session Registrant Questions

How do we decontaminate equipment?

Do you view 2020 impacts from COVID as simply a one-off or does it change your planning and management thinking, i.e. do you see yourself or your organization seeking to diversify management to better absorb unexpected events?

What precautions are being taken on the fire line?

What has been the record of spread on the fire line, and in fire camps?

Are new variants likely to change the risk calculations?

What COVID-19-related constraints or changes to operations hampered fire implementation, and what techniques or approaches proved effective to overcome those difficulties?

What are we expecting to see in the coming fire season?

What is your prediction for spring 2021, and agencies allowing prescribed burning? (because of COVID-19 our organization did no burning last spring)

Given that vaccination is likely to extend into the fall of this year, is there discussion, thought to seek to prioritize or require vaccination of wildland firefighters that may participate in incident response?

How was COVID handled in an expansive wildfire scenario?

Are there any stats on what impacts COVID has had on response to wildfires?

What are the best approaches for communicating with local communities who have concerns about air quality issues associated with prescribed fire?

prescribed species habitat restoration and brome diversification

What modifications to personnel, equipment, and/or on the ground implementation have helped you be able to continue with prescribed burning during COVID-19?

To understand the intersection of COVID-19 and illness due to smoke, there needs to be a good accounting of smoke exposure on Michigan population. How well can we understand smoke exposure from prescribed fires in Michigan? Are smoke models adequate?

What are the safety concerns around COVID over smoke caused by fire? Could smoke exasperate COVID symptoms or make those exposed more susceptible to having a more serious illness caused by COVID?

Were infection rates of work camps higher than local or national averages?

Do you think COVID-19 Will change our ability to put prescribed fire on the ground as a team?
Will we be doing prescribed Burns this Spring?

Are wildland firefighters being strongly encouraged to get the vaccine? Will there be incentives to do so?

Has Covid affected the region's ability to identify and prepare a plan for areas of potential large wildland fire events?

Have we seen less camp crud because of COVID restrictions?

Will prescribed fire application occur this year with the COVID climate being hot still?

Are there ways that you believe wildland fire response is permanently changed due to Covid?

Did the pandemic alter your fire seasonality? If so, how? Will this influence burning post-pandemic?

Best practices.

What do you envision will be the biggest challenges in the coming fire season?

Not wildland fire, but has anyone attempted to or discussed the need to quantify the regional decrease in Rx fire operations caused by pandemic-related mitigations?

I'm interested to hear how social distancing, etc. measures were implemented on out of State assignments. Seems like that would have been difficult.

Need to protect our folks so I hope safety protocols remain in place. LONG TERM health impacts on individual fire fighters is an issue

How are the agencies encouraging fire professionals to get a COVID test or to take sick leave, since most fire professionals are in good physical condition and may be habituated to working through illnesses (they may attribute COVID-19 symptoms to work related fatigue, or exposure to smoky environmental conditions)?

How successful at protecting fire fighters has covid19 protocols been.

This question is geared more towards RX burns and COVID. How are agencies justifying putting smoke up in the air during a virus that causes breathing issues? What changes are folks making to their program or prescriptions to reduce the impact of smoke on smoke sensitive receptors?

what did the majority of large ICT1 fires look like out west this summer? logistics, food, camps etc.?

What does the near future look like regarding fire trainings during the COVID pandemic? Specifically how might a company ensure new staff is able to continue taking fire courses during COVID, or are most organizations putting this on hold?

What worked well this year?

Why was there such a difference in the response to Covid on different fires? The standard was set prior to fire season, but implementation was not the same across Regions and Teams. The direction from ICs and leadership was inconstant at best.

How has Covid 19 affected an agency's ability to hire qualified individuals?

What steps are agencies and companies taking to protect worker health?

Given that vaccination is likely to extend into the fall of this year, is there discussion, thought to seek to prioritize or require vaccination of wildland firefighters that may participate in incident response?

Are all agencies using the EACC plan?

How has COVID impacted wildland fire missions?

How would COVID-19 affect burning?