

Emission Inventory System - Events Inventory Course
May 15, 2012
Questions and Answers

1. Will Alaska be included in the nationwide SMARTFIRE this year?

Yes, along with HI, VI, PR and Tribal lands.

2. Has SmartFire been modified to use the actual dates the fire is burning instead of the date the ICS-209 report gets filed, which can be months after the fire is extinguished?

Yes. The “report date” is now only used for ICS-209 reports that are “initial” or “update.” Otherwise, the start date will be used.

3. For the 2011 Event NEI, you will be using 2011 fire data, right? Texas had significant fires during 2011. Yes, we will be using 2011

Yes. We will be using 2011 data throughout the domain.

4. When will you get 2011 input data for your models?

As mentioned during the training on 5/15/12, We will have 2011 data for ICS-209, HMS, and GeoMac (which correlates very well with MTBS perimeter data) right away, and we will use these input data to construct draft 2011 EVENTS EPA inventory in August. We will not get MTBS data until around the end of the year (will be used for final run of SF2, to occur sometime early next year).

5. Since the emissions are daily sums, is it possible to sum these emissions by county, scc, and pollutant? Or will you get double counting?

If this question is about the state agencies providing summed input (option 2), then If they wanted to provide totals for a county to us, to avoid double counting, we would need to use their summed data only, and not use any other inputs. If this question is “can we sum the daily emissions?” from the EPA dataset the answer is yes. In fact, we may also post some summary data along these lines.

6. If a fire covers an entire county, how is the lat long assigned (point of origin, or center of county?) It was in reference to the required field of data that would be submitted to EPA under option 2.

The S/L/Ts should submit the centroid of the fire, not the county

7. Question about latitude/longitude information? Is it centroid of fire event?

Yes. Actually, to be more precise, SF2 often sees fires as containing multiple distinct burning areas on a given day. In those cases, there will be several lat/lon pairs associated with the centroids of each of those burning areas

8. Can only EPA assign an event identifier? Or can states assign?

States need to assign event identifiers for any fires that are “new” and not identified already by SF2 (in the data EPA will provide for review). S/L/Ts should ensure that whatever identifier they use does NOT coincide with any other already chosen identifier for the State/County FIPS in question. For fires already identified by EPA methods, use the exact same fire name or identifier to make your “activity” edits before submitting spreadsheet via Option 2.

9. Do you use SmartFire for estimating acres burned for ag fires? If so, is your "Option 2" process also usable for states that report ag burning?

This is a more difficult question to answer right now. EPA is considering using ag burning national estimates as developed using Dr. Jessica McCarty’s methods (for 2011). If we use SF2 methods instead, we do not process those Ag emissions through SF2, instead we compute emissions based on the fire pixels identified via SFs as having occurred over agricultural lands. So, the short answer is no (since we don’t estimate emissions for ag fires via SF2). However, if you do have input for ag fires, we can use it as QA for the method we decide to pursue and use for the NEI. On a more generic note, we can certainly use SF2 to take in ag fire information.