

State of Oregon

Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

Date: Sept. 7, 2017

To: Environmental Quality Commission

From: Richard Whitman, Director



Subject: Agenda item K, Informational item: Forestry smoke management
Sept. 13-14, 2017, EQC meeting

Purpose of item DEQ, Oregon Health Authority and Department of Forestry staff will present on Oregon's Smoke Management Program and discuss key health, policy and procedural considerations for the program and updated Smoke Management Plan. The commission has joint regulatory authority with ODF for the management of smoke from prescribed burns on specified forested lands in Oregon.

Background The Smoke Management Plan is administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry to manage prescribed burning on state, private, federal and other public land to protect air quality and maintain forest productivity and forest health. The goals of the smoke management plan and program are to maximize opportunities for the use of prescribed fire while minimizing smoke impacts and health risks to the public. State law requires the State Forester and the Department of Environmental Quality to jointly approve the smoke management plan. The approved plan becomes part of the Oregon Clean Air Act State Implementation Plan submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency as part of the state's efforts to attain and maintain air quality standards. The Smoke Management Plan requires periodic review to ensure its adequacy in meeting all its objectives.

The Department of Forestry promulgates the smoke management rules, which are integrated into the Smoke Management Plan that must be approved by EQC and the Board of Forestry. ODF also oversees the day-to-day operations of the smoke management program. ODF and DEQ have been working with an advisory committee since spring 2017 to develop recommendations for discussion with the Board of Forestry and Environmental Quality Commission in November 2017. The Oregon Health Authority is a formal member of that advisory committee and will join DEQ and ODF staff for this presentation to participate in the discussion on health-based elements of the program. DEQ and ODF are currently reevaluating the schedule of the plan review and committee work in light of the current fire season.

**EQC
involvement**

DEQ will keep the commission informed on the progress of the smoke management plan review and possible recommendations for changes to the Smoke Management Plan in 2018.

**More
information**

A. Oregon Smoke Management program [webpage:](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Fire/Pages/Burn.aspx)
<http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Fire/Pages/Burn.aspx>

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