

Wildfire Air Quality Study

Food Safety and Environmental Stewardship Laboratory

initiated August 2018



WHERE WE SAMPLED



(2018) We sampled in 13 locations in 4 states. Washington, Oregon, Idaho & California

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

- Kim Anderson, PhD
- Diana Rohlman, PhD

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Funding provided by the Food Safety and Environmental Stewardship Laboratory, directed by Dr. Kim Anderson.

Who We Are

The Food Safety and Environmental Stewardship Laboratory is a research program. One research focus is expanding knowledge related to human safety and chemical exposures and environmental integrity preservation.

Why Wildfire Research

Wildfires in the Pacific Northwest are happening more often and lasting longer. Smoke from wildfires has resulted in poor air quality even miles away from an active fire.

What We Are Doing



Working with interested community members, we placed air samplers (T) in four states during and after wildfires in the Pacific Northwest. Each location had one indoor and one outdoor sampler. This allows us to see how air quality may be the same or different inside or outside.

After one month, samplers were analyzed for a specific type of air pollution, a class of chemicals called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). > <https://superfund.oregonstate.edu/all-about-pahs>

Our Preliminary Findings

We found that PAH concentrations were generally higher indoors than outdoors, possibly due to lower ventilation. Additional potential sources of PAHs in the home may be due to cooking, use of candles/incense and even certain types of naphthalene-based air fresheners.

We found more types of PAHs outdoors. This may be due to the many different types of sources (vehicle exhaust, forest fires, pollution, etc.)

We will be sampling again in the summer of 2019.

CONTACT US



Call Email Text

Diana Rohlman

E: diana.rohlman@oregonstate.edu

T: 541-357-8577

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