

June 18, 2014

To: All Incident and Area Command Teams

From: Pete Lahm – Forest Service – Air Resource Specialist

Subject: Air Resource Advisor (THSP-ARA) Ordering Procedures

1. On June 10, 2014 the National Interagency Coordination Center sent out Ordering Instructions for the Technical Specialist – Air Resource Specialist (THSP-ARA) and information about ordering PM2.5 Smoke Monitoring Kits for FY14. The information is included below as well a brief description of the THSP-ARA. This position is part of the Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program which includes a national cache of smoke monitors, the cadre of THSP-ARAs and trainees and operational incident wildland fire smoke modeling support capability.
2. When a Technical Specialist - Air Resource Advisor (THSP-ARA) is requested for an incident, agency administrator, GACC, Decision Support Center, Area Command or for large fire support, a resource to fill the request will be identified by contacting the Forest Service, Fire and Aviation Management (FS-FAM) Air Resource Specialist in Washington, DC (ARA Order line [661-438-1272](tel:661-438-1272)).
3. The FS-FAM Air Resource Specialist will identify a THSP-ARA available for assignment and provide the individual's name and host dispatch center.
4. The THSP-ARA position is established within the FSH 5109.34 Casual Hire Authority (see FS 2014 AD Pay Plan and AD Position Descriptions, <http://www.nwcg.gov/branches/pre/ibc/index.htm>) as an AD-J rate with a position description available if needed.
5. THSP-ARA orders are usually filled with a rental vehicle or agency vehicle capable of hauling smoke monitoring kits, a laptop computer, and MiFi Broadband unit or (on-site capability for internet access).
6. The need for a THSP-ARA will vary based on smoke impacts to air quality and risk to: public health and safety, transportation safety posed by smoke on roads and aviation, and fire personnel health and safety. Considerations include: projected magnitude and duration of emissions, topography, weather, dispersion potential and current and projected air quality in the area including air quality standard attainment designation. The incident smoke footprint can often span multiple air quality and public health jurisdictions, tribal as well as state boundaries where a THSP-ARA can be invaluable. They also help address public smoke concerns and it helps to order a THSP-ARA before smoke is an issue.
7. For questions regarding the Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program, please contact Pete Lahm at [602-432-2614](tel:602-432-2614) or via email at: pete.lahm@gmail.com