Smoke and Transportation Safety

1. Assess safety risks to personnel and public posed by smoke on roads.

During initial attack and/or daily sizeup on extended attack, evaluate the potential of smoke to impact roadways up to 10 miles away. Identify drainages/topographic features that may allow for smoke to impact roadways during the night and early morning.

2. Thresholds that, when combined with smoke, indicate potential for reduced roadway visibility.

Key Weather Variables	Watch Out	Critical
Surface Temperature	≤ 70 °F	≤ 55 °F
Relative Humidity (RH)	≥ 70 %	> 90 %
Surface Wind Speed	< 7 mph	≤ 4 mph
Cloud Cover	≤ 60 %	< 40 %

3. Hazard Control

Mitigate when roadway visibility is expected to be impacted. Depending on thresholds projected and risk assessment, consider use of smoke observers, smoke signs, reduced speed limit, drone car, lead car, lane closure, or, if necessary, entire road closure. Notify appropriate authorities. Consider use of local, regional, or national air resource or meteorological specialists (Air Resource Advisors [THSP], Incident Meteorologist [IMET]).

For in-depth information, see *Road and Smoke Safety Guide*, PMS 477, https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/pms477, and NWCG Roads, Smoke, and Safety video, https://www.nwcg.gov/training-courses/rt-130/hazards/haz511.