

UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS/NOTICES

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

NEW! Please join the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, the Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service and our broader Indian Country COVID-19 Response Team

Thursday, September 24, 2020.

[Register Here](#)

Indian Country COVID-19 Update Call on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 4:00 – 5:30 PM (EST) (please note time zone). Note: You must RSVP to join the call. Upon successful registration, you will receive a confirmation email with dial-in instructions.

NEW! Study Links HAP Exposure to 9-Percent Increase in COVID Death Rate (September 11, 2020) – Authors of a peer-reviewed study published in the journal Environmental Research Letters found that exposure to hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) could be associated with a 9-percent increase in COVID-related mortality. Specifically, the study focused on the combined hazard index and individual respiratory hazard quotient from the EPA 2014 National Air Toxics Assessment for five HAPs: formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, acrolein, naphthalene and diesel particulate matter (PM). The researchers controlled for socioeconomic status, population health indicators and exposure to PM2.5 and ozone and determined that “an increase in the respiratory hazard index is associated with a 9% increase in COVID-19 mortality. Although differing in magnitude, this association holds for individual HAPs acetaldehyde, and diesel PM.” Previous studies relating COVID outcomes with air pollution have focused on criteria pollutants. For further information, [click here](#).

NEW! EPA Finalizes Rule on Guidance Document Transparency (September 14, 2020) – EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed a final rule that establishes requirements and procedures for the issuance of guidance documents consistent with the requirements of President Trump’s October 2019 Executive Order (EO) 13891, “Promoting the Rule of Law Through Improved Agency Guidance Documents.” [For further information](#).

In 2006 ITEP established the Virgil Masayesva Native American Environmental Scholarship Fund in memoriam of ITEP’s co-founder and original director. This year the centerpiece of ITEP’s fundraising campaign will be a virtual run / walk.

[Registration Link](#)

Virgil, a member of the Hopi tribe, was an avid runner, and to this day running is an integral part of many Native American communities. So it is in this spirit that we are announcing the [2020 ITEP Virtual Run & Fundraiser!](#) Our goal is to raise

\$20,000 by the end of October. Please visit our [event website](#), register, and share this announcement with your friends and colleagues. Most importantly, please consider making a [direct donation](#) to the endowment. Together we can make a positive and lasting impact and support the next generation of Native American environmental leaders!

Webinar—Itep Research Education on Air and Cardiovascular Health (REACH)

Tuesday, September 22; 10am PDT

[Register Here](#)

Improved Air Quality can result in better health outcomes for your community. Do you have community members with asthma? Are you concerned about SARS-CoV-2 exposure? Do you have elders or young children in your community? Do you use wood stoves to heat your homes? Do you experience dust in your community? Develop and implement new inquiry-based curriculum modules within the classroom focused on research methods design, environmental health, and population health. Incorporate novel PM2.5 air sampling technologies into the classroom. Share data across a network of schools focused on data quality and data sharing.

This is a courtesy announcement that the U.S. EPA intends to consult with tribal governments on the action mentioned below:

- Consultation Title: Update of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Information Quality System Policy and Procedure
- EPA Lead Organization: EPA Office of Mission Support (OMS)/Office of Environmental Information (OEI)
 - Start Date: 09/02/2020
 - End Date: 11/06/2020

To obtain additional information about this action and other EPA consultations ongoing or planned, please visit EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) at <http://tcots.epa.gov>.

EPA finalized minor amendments to the 2004 National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for the Plywood and Composite Wood Products (PCWP) source category.

The PCWP source category includes 230 facilities: 93 PCWP facilities, 121 lumber mills and 16 facilities that produce both PCWP and lumber. EPA identified acetaldehyde, acrolein, formaldehyde, methanol, phenol and propionaldehyde as the main pollutants emitted from this sector. Based on the results of required residual risk review, EPA determined that risks from the source category are acceptable. In addition, based on the results of the technology review, the agency identified no developments in practices, processes or control technologies that

would further reduce emissions of air toxics from the emission units regulated under the PCWP NESHAP. EPA is finalizing no significant changes to the original NESHAP for this source category and concludes that the standards continue to provide an ample margin of safety to protect public health and the environment. A fact sheet and pre-publication version of the final rule are [available here](#).

Course APTI SI-470, Quality Assurance for Air Pollution Measurement Systems.

[Register Here](#)

This is a new comprehensive online course covering aspects of quality assurance for air pollution measurement systems. It provides essential information staff need to be able to carry out ambient air monitoring QA responsibilities. It is a new online version of a course that has been taught in the classroom for many years; it covers the same procedures and information. It consists of 12 modules, is narrated, and includes knowledge checks and exams for each module.

NTAA Upcoming Calls

The toll-free number is 1-800-309-2350. If you do not need to call toll free, or would like to help conserve NTAA funding, you can call 1-805-309-2350. Both numbers use code 928-523-0526#. Contact Andy.Bessler@nau.edu if you have any questions about any call! ***Registration instructions*** When you register for the GoToWebinar, please remember to include your Tribe, Region, or Organization in parenthesis after your last name. This allows you to see everyone on the call and prevents us from conducting a roll-call, ultimately saving everyone’s time.

EPA Policy Call: Call in to hear updates from EPA on policies, actions, and tools relevant to Indian Country and Air Quality.	Thursday, September 24, 2pm ET
Mobile Sources Work Group: This monthly work group addresses all mobile source pollution issues.	Thursday, October 8, 2pm ET
Indoor Air Quality Work Group: Join this work group every other month to help support IAQ work throughout Indian Country.	Thursday, October 15, 2pm ET
Wood Smoke Work Group: Join this work group every other month to address wood smoke issues in Indian Country.	Thursday, November 19, 2pm ET

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professional's (ITEP's) [Tribes and Climate Change Calendar](#) includes conferences, trainings, webinars and other events related to tribes and climate change.

[Click here](#) for ITEP's other trainings and events.

[Click here](#) for ITEP's new Tribal Environmental Management and Planning Online Courses. New courses have been added, so check it out!

ITEP's [FY20 AIAQTP Course Schedule](#)

Course Title	Dates	Location	Course Level
	2020		
Air Pollution Technology <i>(Postponed!)</i>	TBD	Flagstaff, AZ	2
Meteorological Monitoring <i>(Postponed!)</i>	Fall 2020	TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV	3
Air Pollution Modeling	Fall 2020	TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV	3
Air Quality Outreach	TBD	TBD	1
National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ) <i>(Postponed!)</i>	May 2021	Tulsa, OK	n/a
Air Quality Planning for Wildland Smoke	Anytime	Series of 6 recorded webinars	n/a
Indoor Air Quality - Independent Study	Anytime	Independent Study	1
Building Performance: Improving IAQ in Cold Climates	Open	Online	1
Building Performance: Improving IAQ in Warm Climates	In development	Online	1
Residential Building Science Review	Open	Online	1
Radon Fundamentals	Open	Online	1
Quality Assurance Fundamentals (QA 101)	Open	Online	1
Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) (QA 201-209)	Open	Online	2
Emissions Inventory Fundamentals	Open	Online	2

Emissions Inventory Advanced	Open	Online	3
<p><i>Note: This schedule is subject to change. For up-to-date information, course descriptions, and applications please visit</i> http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_air/</p>			

Climate Change / Energy

Attention California Tribes!

California tribal governments can receive funds to help fight climate change while addressing community needs for clean transportation, clean air, land conservation, agricultural equipment, and more.

- California Climate Investments has a [new webpage](#) that lists California Climate Investments Programs that California Tribal Governments are eligible to receive funding from.
- California Climate Investments Webinars- Agency and grantee speakers will highlight resources and share pathways to success in an upcoming webinar series. You can request updates for more information as it becomes available [on our website](#).
- [California Climate Investments](#) is a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities in California.

Call for Community Engagement Workshop Participants and Papers for a Special Issue

Workshop Series: Winter/Spring 2021

[Apply Here](#)

This USDA NIFA funded and professionally facilitated Engagement Workshop Series will convene a multidisciplinary group of researchers, community stakeholders, practitioners, students, funders, and policy makers to discuss the design and impacts of stakeholder engagement to address socio-environmental problems in working landscapes. The workshop series includes virtual meetings in winter/spring 2021 and a two-day in-person workshop at Penn State University, US in June 2021. Intended outcomes include 1) a special issue of a journal on workshop themes, 2) a collaboratively defined and co-produced research agenda on the “science of engagement,” and 3) formation of a new collaborative research network. Among the questions to be addressed are: *What risks does engagement entail and for whom? What challenges and risks are posed to indigenous and underrepresented communities through engagement? Which approaches effectively and equitably engage underrepresented stakeholders?* [Apply here to participate](#) in the virtual meetings and/or to submit a paper. Funding is available for travel to the June 2021 conference on a competitive basis. More information available at the

[workshop website](#). Questions or a request for more information can be sent to Georgia Hart-Fredeluces at hartgeo2@isu.edu.

Save the Date: Shifting Seasons Summit 3, October 6-8, 2020, Keshena, WI

Contingency dates: March 2021

The Shifting Seasons Summit is a gathering that focuses on climate resilience planning and implementation within Tribes and across Tribal ceded territories in the Northeast Region. This summit will also include network-building opportunities and initiatives developed outside of the Northeast by capacity building organizations, academic institutions and Tribes. Visit www.NICRN.org for more details.

ITEP's Climate Change Adaptation Training Courses registration is online!

[Learn more about the courses and register here.](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

NEW! Save the Date! Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program

The Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program (TTSGP) provides federally recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations with greater control, flexibility, and decision-making authority over federal funds used to carry out tribal transportation programs, functions, services, and activities (PFSAs) in tribal communities. The TTSGP also affords Tribes and Tribal organizations with specific rights and federal resources to implement and support their Self-Governance programs. On June 1, 2020, the negotiated [final TTSGP rule was published in the Federal Register](#). The rule will be codified in the Code of Federal Regulations at 49 C.F.R. part 29. The TTSGP final rule becomes effective on October 1, 2020. For Tribes or Tribal organizations that are interested in applying to be a participant in the TTSGP or for any questions or comments regarding the TTSGP, you may contact the Office of Tribal Affairs.

NEW! D.C. Circuit Temporarily Stays Methane Control Rollbacks as Publication of Oil and Gas Rules Triggers Immediate Lawsuits from States, Cities and Environmental Groups (September 14-17, 2020) – Three days after EPA published a final rule rolling back methane standards for the oil and gas industry, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit granted an administrative stay that temporarily blocks the rule from taking effect, in response to an “emergency motion” filed by environmental groups. [Click here for more information.](#)

Mindful Mobility Webinar Series Presents DERA 101 Overview & School Bus Rebate // Tribal DERA & VW Settlement

[Register for these webinars here.](#)

The DERA 101 webinar will include an overview of the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) funding programs, including National, State and Tribal Grants and School Bus Rebate components presented by EPA staff; use of VW settlement funds presented by a representative from the Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) and presentations from two grant recipients to share with you on their DERA project experiences, including the grant process, project implementation, use of VW funds (if applicable), and lessons learned.

- Webinar 1: 9/24/2020 at 10:00 AM PST - 11:00 AM PST
Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) 101 Overview & School Bus Rebate Update
- Webinar 2: 9/24/2020 at 11:10 AM PST - 12:00 PM PST
Tribal Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) & Tribal VW Settlement Overview

Serious Adverse Health Events Associated with Methanol-based Hand Sanitizers

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) issued the following Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory on July 5, 2020. On June 19, 2020, the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) (FDA) advised consumers not to use any hand sanitizer manufactured by “Eskbiochem SA de CV” in Mexico, due to the potential presence of methanol, a “toxic alcohol”, as an active ingredient, which can cause blindness and/or death when absorbed through the skin or when swallowed. Since then, [FDA](#) has identified additional ABHSR products that contain methanol and is working with manufacturers and distributors on a voluntary recall of these products. [Read more.](#)

The recent additions to OTAQ's website is listed below. [You can access these additions as well as new press releases and Federal Register notices related to OTAQ on our website.](#)

- August 20, 2020: [EPA requests comment on data sources and analytical approaches on which to base an EPA determination of an updated weighting factor \(F-factor\) for E85 flexible fuel vehicles for model years 2021 and later.](#)
- August 20, 2020: [EPA announces a virtual public hearing to be held on September 17, 2020, on its proposed greenhouse gas \(GHG\) emission standards for airplanes and airplane engines, which was published on August 20, 2020.](#)
- August 19, 2020: [EPA amends the national marine diesel engine program to provide relief provisions to address concerns associated with obtaining and installing certified Tier 4 marine diesel engines in certain high-speed commercial vessels.](#)

Indoor Air Quality

EPA's Integrated Pest Management Program presents a webinar: The Future of Mosquito-Borne Illness and Pest Management Considerations on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 / 2 - 3 PM ET

[Register Here](#)

From viruses to vectors, no one knows what the future will bring, but we can assess the threat and risk for new vector-borne pathogens nearing our borders. During this webinar we will evaluate the conducive conditions that lead to outbreaks, identify potential disease threats and address the role of private industry and public partners in mitigating these risks through IPM-based mosquito control. Attend this webinar to —

- Gain insight on the difference between threat and risk for vector-borne diseases.
- Hear about potential disease threats outside of mosquito-related illnesses.
- Discuss the role of industry partners and mosquito control districts in mosquito management and corresponding efforts to protect pollinators.
- Learn about the process the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is using to monitor and report on pathogen threats beyond U.S. borders.

Featured Presenters:

- Stanton Cope, PhD., Vice President of Technical Services, AP&G Co. / Inc., Catchmaster
- Ann Powers, PhD., Virology Team Lead, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Questions? If you have any questions about IPM or upcoming webinars, please contact us at ipm@epa.gov

Announcing EPA's New Indoor Air and COVID-19 Webpage

COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person-to-person. However, some uncertainty remains about the relative importance of different routes of transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). There are straightforward steps that can be taken to reduce potential airborne transmission of COVID-19 and the focus of this material is on those measures. EPA recommends precautions to reduce the potential for airborne transmission of the virus. These precautions include increasing ventilation with outdoor air and air filtration as part of a larger strategy that includes social distancing, wearing cloth face coverings or masks, [surface cleaning and disinfecting](#), handwashing, and other precautions.

Topics Covered on [EPA's Indoor Air and COVID-19 webpage](#) include:

- [Indoor Air in Homes and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Ventilation and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

- [Air Cleaners, HVAC Filters and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Additional Measures to Address COVID-19 in Public Indoor Spaces](#)
- [COVID-19, Wildfires, and Indoor Air Quality](#)
- [Science and Technical Resources related to Indoor Air and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
 - [Indoor Air and COVID-19 Key References and Publications](#)

Damp Buildings, Human Health, and HVAC Design

[Download Here](#)

This report summarizes dampness-related health risks in buildings as understood within ASHRAE. It provides simple-to-recognize symptoms of dampness, describes its capacity to increase the probability of negative health effects, and provides suggestions that HVAC system designers can apply to minimize such risks. The text also suggests monitoring instruments and threshold values that can provide early warning of trends that, if allowed to continue, could eventually result in health-relevant dampness.

Be sure to subscribe to [CodeTalk](#), HUD's Office of Native American Programs newsletter, for webinars and opportunities!