

1 ***Supporting Information: Trace Organic Gas Analyzer Time-of-Flight mass spectrometer***
2 ***(TOGA-TOF) system for airborne observations of formaldehyde***

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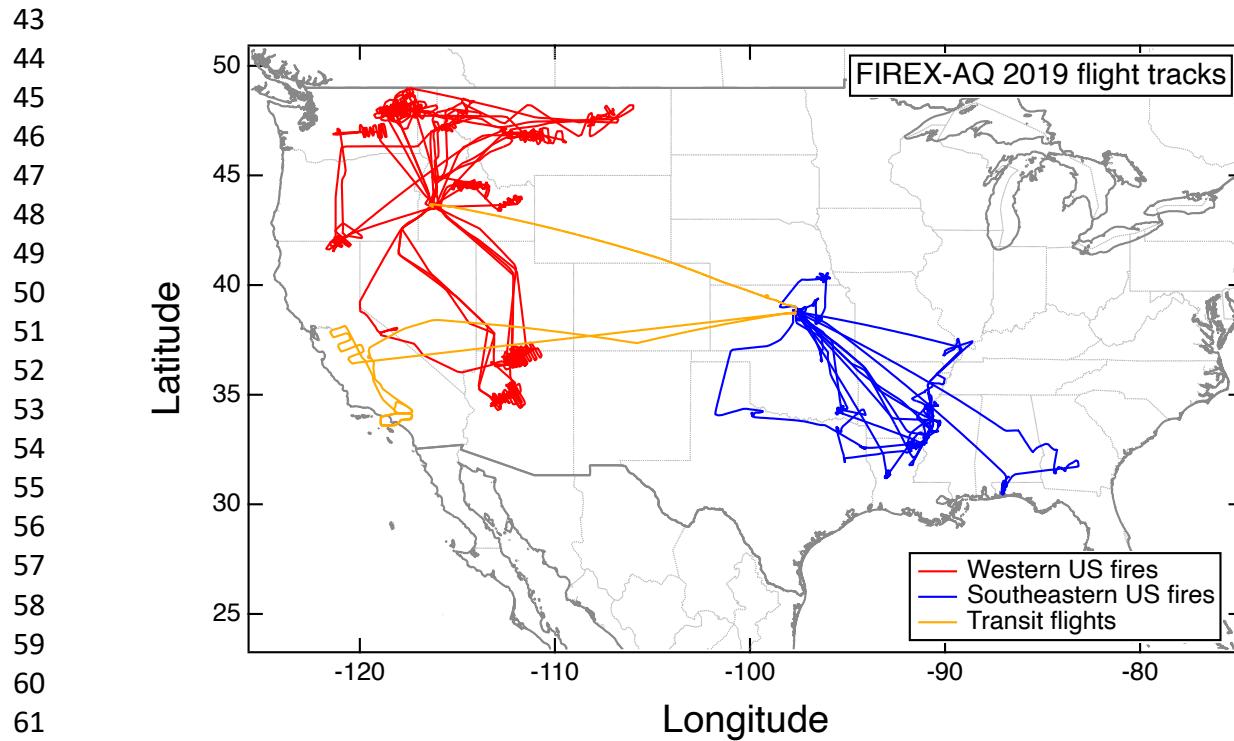


Figure S1. Flight tracks of research and transit flights during FIREX-AQ. Research flights focusing on western wildfires were based in Boise, ID, and research flights focusing on southeastern agricultural fires and prescribed fires were based in Salina, KS.

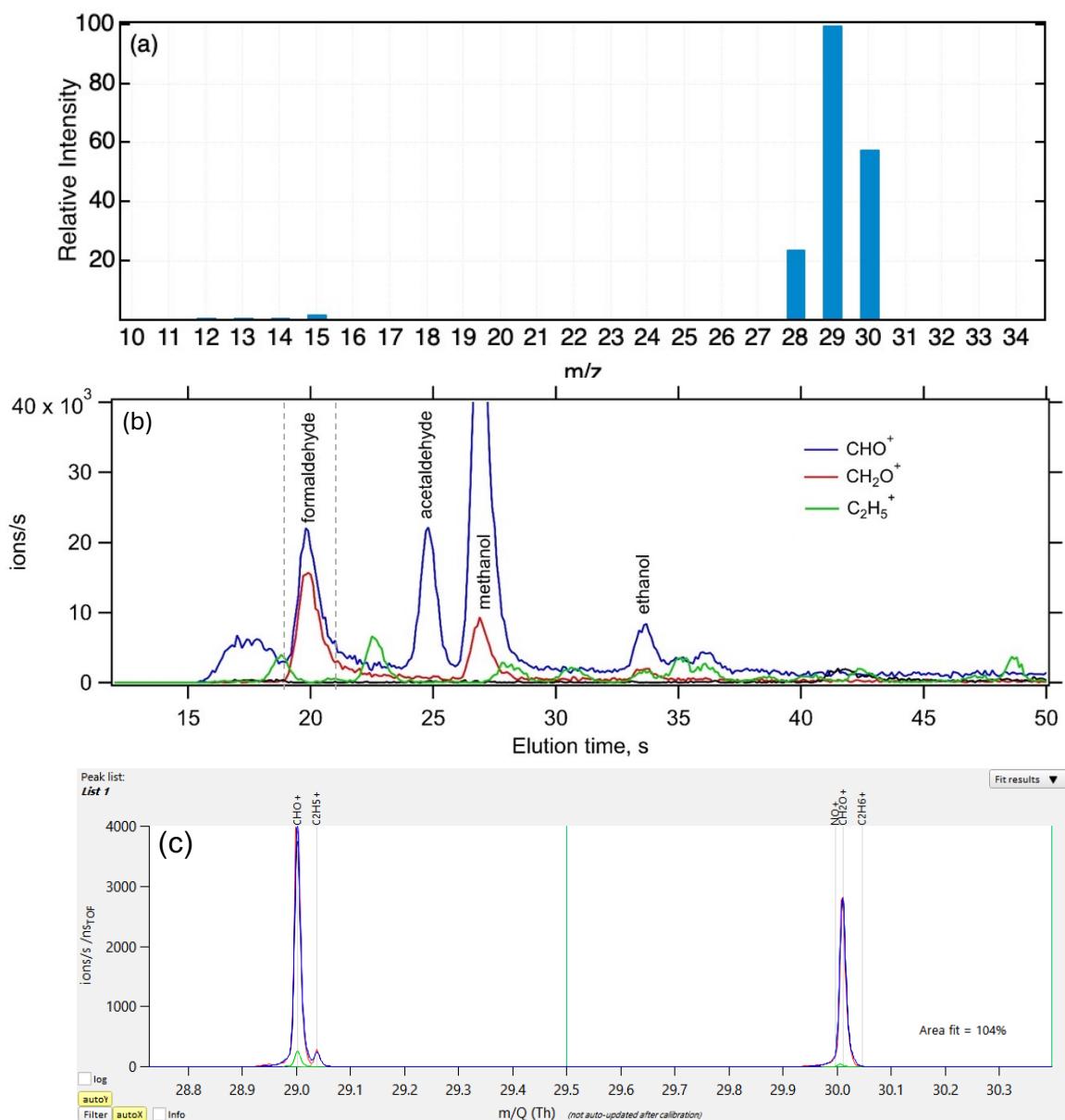


Figure S2. (a) Unit mass fragmentation ions of HCHO with electron ionization (remade from webbook.nist.gov), (b) chromatographic signals of HCHO parent ion CH_2O^+ (m/z 30.010016) and the most dominant fragment CHO^+ (m/z 29.002191), as well as the other major nominal mass 29 ion, C_2H_5^+ (m/z 29.038577), and (c) high-resolution peak mass fitting of TOGA-TOF HCHO peak (nominal masses 30 for CH_2O^+ and 29 for CHO^+) at the HCHO elution time (20.2 s) using Tofware (Aerodyne Research, Inc.), showing the mass resolution between CHO^+ and C_2H_5^+ and between NO^+ and CH_2O^+ .

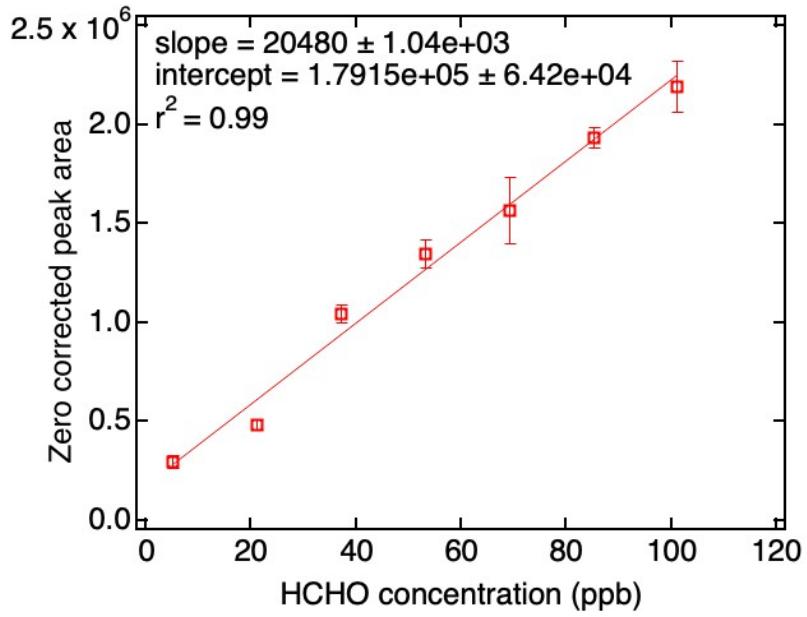


Figure S3. TOGA-TOF HCHO calibration curve, with ODR linear regression of each calibration point. The error bars show the standard error in the repeated peak integration

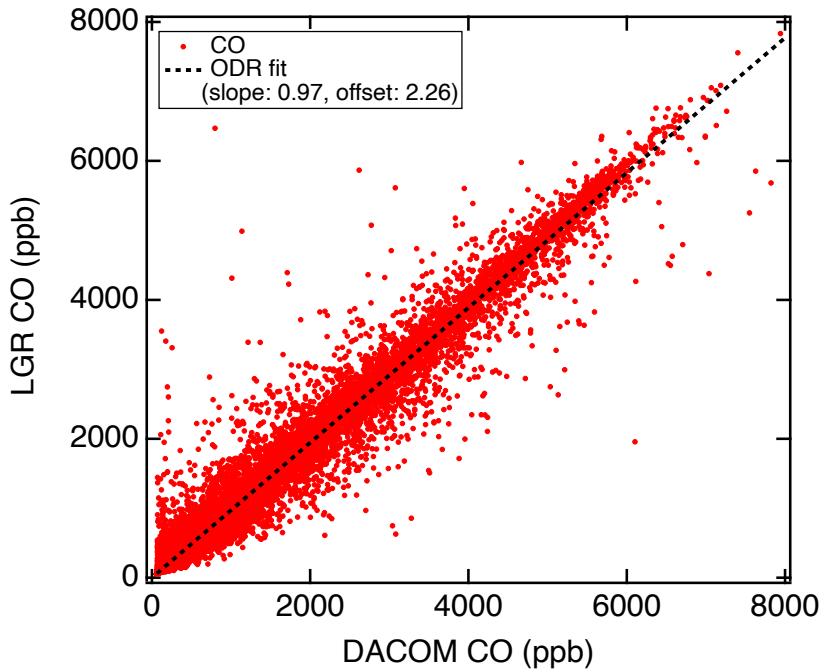


Figure S4. Comparison between 1-Hz CO measured by the LGR and DACOM instruments during FIREX-AQ.

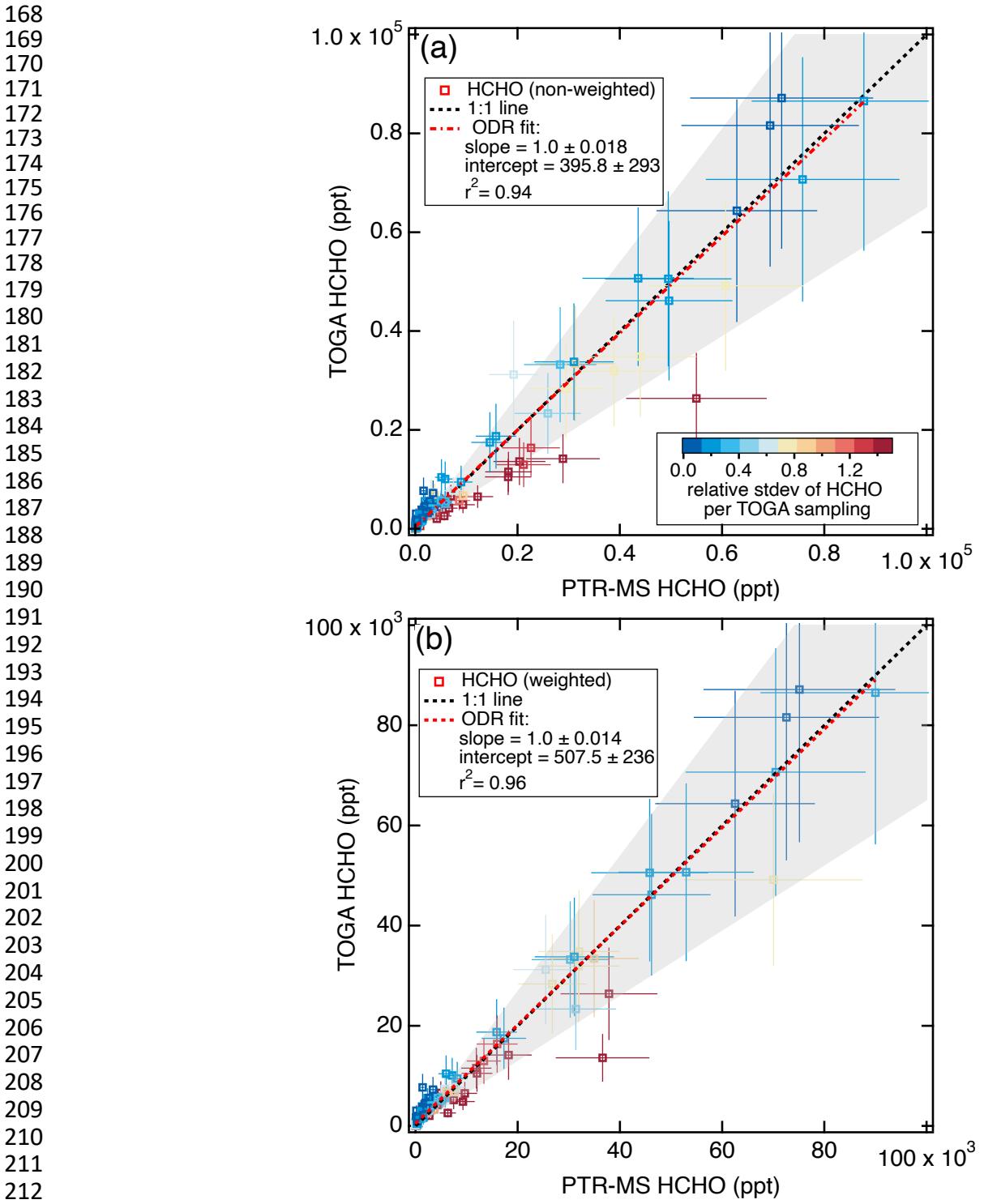


Figure S5. Comparisons between the TOGA-TOF HCHO and the (a) non-weighted and (b) weighted TOGA-merge University of Oslo PTR-MS HCHO. The error bars show the PTR-MS $\pm 25\%$ accuracy and the TOGA-TOF $\pm 35\%$ uncertainty.

218 **Table S1.** Formaldehyde (HCHO) normalized excess mixing ratios (NEMRs) observed in the western U.S.
 219 fire plumes during FIREX-AQ.
 220

| Fire name and flight date | Transect start time (UTC) | Transect stop time (UTC) | Physical smoke age (h) ^a | NEMR (HCHO ppt/CO ppb) ^b | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | | | CAMS | ISAF | TOGA-TOF |
| Shady 7/25/2019 | 7/26 00:13:42 | 7/26 00:17:42 | 1.2 | 23.5 ± 0.2 | 18.1 ± 0.1 | 15.5 ± 0.8 |
| | 7/29 23:44:03 | 7/29 23:49:18 | 1.3 | 21.2 ± 0.5 | 14.9 ± 0.3 | 12.2 ± 3.1 |
| | 7/29 23:52:48 | 7/29 23:56:18 | 0.8 | 13.6 ± 0.4 | 10.5 ± 0.3 | 16.4 ± 0.5 |
| | 7/30 00:05:03 | 7/30 00:10:18 | 1.9 | 22.4 ± 0.4 | 17.7 ± 0.3 | 17.4 ± 2.8 |
| North Hills 7/29/2019 | 7/30 00:12:03 | 7/30 00:17:18 | 2.4 | 23.9 ± 0.4 | 17.8 ± 0.3 | 20.2 ± 1.4 |
| | 7/30 00:19:03 | 7/30 00:24:18 | 1.5 | 19.9 ± 0.5 | 14.2 ± 0.4 | 14.4 ± 4.8 |
| | 7/30 00:27:48 | 7/30 00:33:03 | 2.0 | 22.2 ± 0.4 | 15.5 ± 0.3 | 20.6 ± 0.7 |
| | 7/30 00:38:18 | 7/30 00:43:33 | 3.4 | 22.0 ± 0.3 | 17.2 ± 0.2 | 18.5 ± 1.1 |
| | 7/30 00:45:18 | 7/30 00:50:33 | 4.0 | 23.5 ± 0.4 | 17.8 ± 0.3 | 17.9 ± 3.8 |
| | 7/30 02:44:18 | 7/30 02:49:33 | 1.1 | 19.2 ± 0.2 | 15.2 ± 0.1 | 16.9 ± 0.7 |
| | 7/30 03:05:17 | 7/30 03:10:33 | 1.7 | 22.0 ± 0.1 | 17.5 ± 0.1 | 17.1 ± 0.5 |
| Tucker 7/29/2019 | 7/30 03:14:02 | 7/30 03:19:17 | 2.1 | 22.2 ± 0.2 | 17.6 ± 0.2 | 18.4 ± 1.8 |
| | 7/30 03:21:02 | 7/30 03:29:48 | 2.5 | 21.8 ± 0.2 | 17.7 ± 0.2 | 20.5 ± 0.4 |
| | 7/30 03:33:18 | 7/30 03:42:03 | 3.0 | 23.7 ± 0.2 | 18.9 ± 0.1 | 19.5 ± 1.0 |
| | 7/30 03:52:32 | 7/30 03:57:48 | 5.4 | 21.8 ± 0.2 | 17.6 ± 0.2 | 19.0 ± 2.1 |
| Lefthand 7/30/2019 | 7/31 02:12:17 | 7/31 02:17:32 | 6.5 | 21.2 ± 0.4 | 17.4 ± 0.3 | 17.9 ± 4.1 |
| | 7/31 02:26:16 | 7/31 02:31:32 | 7.3 | 22.6 ± 0.5 | 16.9 ± 0.3 | 18.2 ± 3.0 |
| Williams Flats 8/3/2019 | 8/3 23:07:50 | 8/3 23:15:35 | 3.5 | 14.3 ± 0.06 | 11.1 ± 0.09 | 20.3 ± 0.7 |
| | 8/3 23:36:18 | 8/3 23:42:50 | 3.7 | 13.4 ± 0.07 | 10.4 ± 0.1 | 12.7 ± 0.7 |
| | 8/3 23:46:20 | 8/3 23:51:00 | 3.8 | 11.4 ± 0.2 | 9.0 ± 0.2 | 13.8 ± 2.1 |
| | 8/4 00:33:01 | 8/4 00:37:55 | 0.6 | 15.2 ± 0.1 | 11.8 ± 0.1 | 15.7 ± 0.3 |
| | 8/4 00:37:55 | 8/4 00:44:38 | 1.7 | 16.7 ± 0.05 | 12.8 ± 0.07 | 12.4 ± 2.2 |
| | 8/4 00:44:38 | 8/4 00:49:53 | 1.7 | 18.4 ± 0.1 | 14.3 ± 0.09 | 17.9 ± 0.5 |
| | 8/4 01:00:26 | 8/4 01:09:11 | 2.1 | 18.2 ± 0.06 | 13.9 ± 0.06 | 12.2 ± 0.7 |
| | 8/4 01:10:56 | 8/4 01:16:11 | 2.6 | 19.9 ± 0.04 | 15.3 ± 0.08 | 18.8 ± 0.4 |
| | 8/4 01:17:56 | 8/4 01:22:12 | 2.9 | 19.8 ± 0.07 | 15.3 ± 0.1 | 22.2 ± 0.4 |
| | 8/4 01:30:57 | 8/4 01:36:12 | 2.4 | 21.0 ± 0.07 | 16.3 ± 0.1 | 22.7 ± 1.0 |
| | 8/4 01:39:42 | 8/4 01:43:12 | 3.1 | 19.9 ± 0.07 | 15.4 ± 0.1 | 17.9 ± 0.8 |
| | 8/4 01:51:57 | 8/4 01:55:27 | 4.0 | 20.2 ± 0.06 | 15.9 ± 0.1 | 18.7 ± 0.4 |
| Williams Flats 8/7/2019 | 8/8 00:41:17 | 8/8 00:44:47 | 2.0 | 19.1 ± 0.2 | 15.1 ± 0.1 | 21.0 ± 0.2 |
| | 8/8 01:11:02 | 8/8 01:20:12 | 0.7 | 17.3 ± 0.1 | 13.7 ± 0.08 | 19.4 ± 1.4 |
| | 8/8 01:41:20 | 8/8 01:46:35 | 2.1 | 19.2 ± 0.2 | 15.2 ± 0.1 | 23.3 ± 0.9 |
| | 8/8 01:48:20 | 8/8 01:53:35 | 2.5 | 20.1 ± 0.1 | 15.8 ± 0.1 | 23.9 ± 0.2 |
| | 8/8 01:57:05 | 8/8 02:02:20 | 2.8 | 20.2 ± 0.1 | 15.9 ± 0.1 | 21.6 ± 0.5 |
| | 8/8 02:07:35 | 8/8 02:12:50 | 3.3 | 21.0 ± 0.2 | 16.6 ± 0.1 | 24.1 ± 0.3 |
| Williams Flats 8/8/2019 | 8/9 00:53:00 | 8/9 00:58:15 | 2.5 | 16.4 ± 0.3 | 13.7 ± 0.2 | 11.8 ± 0.7 |
| | 8/9 01:11:59 | 8/9 01:17:14 | 0.9 | 11.6 ± 0.2 | 9.2 ± 0.1 | 13.9 ± 0.2 |
| | 8/9 01:20:44 | 8/9 01:25:59 | 1.1 | 12.5 ± 0.3 | 10.2 ± 0.2 | 12.0 ± 0.8 |
| | 8/9 01:31:14 | 8/9 01:35:54 | 1.2 | 12.6 ± 0.4 | 10.5 ± 0.2 | 20.2 ± 0.3 |
| | 8/9 02:09:57 | 8/9 02:15:12 | 2.0 | 14.0 ± 0.2 | 11.6 ± 0.1 | 15.2 ± 0.04 |
| | 8/13 00:16:26 | 8/13 00:19:56 | 0.5 | 19.1 ± 0.1 | 16.4 ± 0.3 | 20.1 ± 0.3 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Castle 8/12/2019 | 8/13 00:25:11 | 8/13 00:28:41 | 1.0 | 19.3 ± 0.1 | 16.0 ± 0.2 | 17.6 ± 0.5 |
| | 8/13 00:32:11 | 8/13 00:37:26 | 1.0 | 19.2 ± 0.08 | 16.0 ± 0.1 | 16.0 ± 0.5 |
| | 8/13 00:40:56 | 8/13 00:46:07 | 1.6 | 19.6 ± 0.07 | 16.2 ± 0.1 | 22.6 ± 0.5 |
| | 8/13 00:59:00 | 8/13 01:06:00 | 3.4 | 22.4 ± 0.1 | 18.4 ± 0.1 | 23.2 ± 0.5 |
| | 8/13 01:11:15 | 8/13 01:20:00 | 3.6 | 22.0 ± 0.2 | 17.8 ± 0.1 | 21.1 ± 1.1 |
| | 8/13 01:20:00 | 8/13 01:27:00 | 3.1 | 18.5 ± 0.1 | 15.5 ± 0.1 | 19.5 ± 1.2 |
| | 8/13 01:32:15 | 8/13 01:39:15 | 4.2 | 21.8 ± 0.2 | 18.7 ± 0.1 | 22.2 ± 0.5 |
| | 8/13 01:41:00 | 8/13 01:49:45 | 4.7 | 22.8 ± 0.1 | 18.9 ± 0.1 | 20.2 ± 1.8 |
| | 8/13 01:51:30 | 8/13 01:58:30 | 5.5 | 21.4 ± 0.2 | 17.4 ± 0.1 | 20.3 ± 0.9 |
| | 8/13 02:00:15 | 8/13 02:09:00 | 5.7 | 22.6 ± 0.2 | 18.4 ± 0.1 | 20.1 ± 0.6 |
| | 8/13 02:10:45 | 8/13 02:17:45 | 6.0 | 21.5 ± 0.3 | 17.6 ± 0.2 | 20.1 ± 2.3 |
| | 8/13 03:06:45 | 8/13 03:10:15 | 1.5 | 16.9 ± 0.3 | 13.8 ± 0.4 | 13.4 ± 0.3 |
| | 8/13 03:12:00 | 8/13 03:17:15 | 2.8 | 19.2 ± 0.06 | 15.3 ± 0.1 | 17.3 ± 1.3 |
| | 8/13 03:20:45 | 8/13 03:28:29 | 3.5 | 19.9 ± 0.06 | 15.5 ± 0.09 | 19.4 ± 3.4 |
| | 8/13 03:28:29 | 8/13 03:33:51 | 2.4 | 18.9 ± 0.1 | 14.2 ± 0.1 | 23.7 ± 1.4 |
| Castle 8/13/2019 | 8/13 23:39:57 | 8/13 23:46:57 | 2.7 | 21.9 ± 0.2 | 18.8 ± 0.2 | 22.7 ± 0.3 |
| | 8/13 23:48:42 | 8/13 23:57:27 | 2.8 | 23.1 ± 0.1 | 19.4 ± 0.1 | 24.0 ± 1.2 |
| | 8/13 23:59:12 | 8/14 00:07:57 | 3.2 | 24.5 ± 0.2 | 20.5 ± 0.1 | 25.5 ± 0.7 |
| | 8/14 00:09:42 | 8/14 00:20:12 | 3.2 | 26.1 ± 0.1 | 21.5 ± 0.1 | 26.8 ± 1.4 |
| | 8/14 00:20:12 | 8/14 00:30:42 | 3.3 | 26.6 ± 0.2 | 22.0 ± 0.2 | 29.7 ± 1.9 |
| | 8/14 00:32:27 | 8/14 00:44:42 | 3.2 | 27.1 ± 0.09 | 22.5 ± 0.1 | 29.7 ± 1.4 |
| | 8/14 00:46:27 | 8/14 00:56:57 | 3.7 | 22.8 ± 0.2 | 19.0 ± 0.2 | 23.0 ± 2.0 |
| | 8/14 01:38:11 | 8/14 01:45:10 | 1.7 | 20.0 ± 0.1 | 16.8 ± 0.2 | 21.3 ± 0.5 |
| | 8/14 01:51:26 | 8/14 01:54:58 | 2.2 | 23.2 ± 0.2 | 20.0 ± 0.3 | 16.8 ± 2.1 |
| | 8/14 02:07:13 | 8/14 02:14:13 | 2.4 | 22.8 ± 0.1 | 18.6 ± 0.1 | 22.0 ± 0.5 |
| | 8/14 02:15:57 | 8/14 02:22:57 | 3.3 | 24.1 ± 0.1 | 20.1 ± 0.1 | 24.3 ± 1.0 |
| | 8/14 02:26:27 | 8/14 02:35:12 | 3.6 | 25.0 ± 0.1 | 20.9 ± 0.1 | 26.3 ± 1.1 |
| | 8/14 02:35:12 | 8/14 02:45:42 | 4.1 | 25.4 ± 0.08 | 21.3 ± 0.1 | 28.3 ± 2.3 |
| | 8/14 02:47:28 | 8/14 02:57:58 | 4.7 | 26.5 ± 0.1 | 22.1 ± 0.1 | 27.0 ± 1.1 |
| | 8/14 02:57:58 | 8/14 03:11:58 | 5.6 | 26.7 ± 0.09 | 22.4 ± 0.1 | 29.2 ± 1.6 |
| Sheridan 8/16/2019 | 8/17 00:38:52 | 8/17 00:43:42 | 0.3 | 15.8 ± 0.3 | 13.6 ± 0.2 | 19.0 ± 0.1 |
| | 8/17 00:47:11 | 8/17 00:52:37 | 0.4 | 16.4 ± 0.2 | 14.7 ± 0.1 | 20.8 ± 0.01 |
| | 8/17 00:54:22 | 8/17 01:00:08 | 0.5 | 16.8 ± 0.3 | 15.1 ± 0.2 | 23.1 ± 0.9 |
| | 8/17 01:01:53 | 8/17 01:06:22 | 0.7 | 17.6 ± 0.2 | 15.6 ± 0.1 | 18.3 ± 0.3 |
| | 8/17 01:08:07 | 8/17 01:13:25 | 0.8 | 17.4 ± 0.1 | 15.6 ± 0.1 | 21.6 ± 0.2 |
| | 8/17 01:13:25 | 8/17 01:20:19 | 1.2 | 18.6 ± 0.2 | 17.0 ± 0.1 | 22.5 ± 0.7 |
| | 8/17 01:23:49 | 8/17 01:29:04 | 1.2 | 18.9 ± 0.1 | 17.0 ± 0.1 | 18.3 ± 0.3 |
| | 8/17 01:29:04 | 8/17 01:36:04 | 1.5 | 19.8 ± 0.2 | 17.8 ± 0.2 | 20.7 ± 1.9 |
| | 8/17 01:39:34 | 8/17 01:46:34 | 1.6 | 22.3 ± 0.2 | 19.7 ± 0.2 | 22.4 ± 0.6 |
| | 8/17 01:48:19 | 8/17 01:55:19 | 2.3 | 22.5 ± 0.1 | 20.3 ± 0.1 | 22.8 ± 0.7 |
| | 8/17 02:14:34 | 8/17 02:30:19 | 3.2 | 23.0 ± 0.1 | 20.7 ± 0.1 | 22.4 ± 0.9 |
| | 8/17 02:30:19 | 8/17 02:46:04 | 4.1 | 23.2 ± 0.1 | 20.8 ± 0.2 | 24.3 ± 1.1 |
| | 8/17 03:38:34 | 8/17 03:54:19 | 4.2 | 22.7 ± 0.2 | 20.4 ± 0.1 | 26.0 ± 3.0 |
| | 8/17 03:54:19 | 8/17 04:08:19 | 3.8 | 23.3 ± 0.2 | 20.9 ± 0.2 | 26.6 ± 2.8 |
| | 8/17 04:10:04 | 8/17 04:27:34 | 4.6 | 20.4 ± 0.2 | 19.0 ± 0.1 | 22.0 ± 1.4 |

221 ^aThe physical smoke ages shown are the median values of the 1-s physical smoke age for each transect based on
 222 mean winds, neglecting plume rise, as reported by J. P. Schwarz in the FIREX-AQ website (<https://www-air.larc.nasa.gov/missions/firex-aq/>).
 223

224 ^bThe slope of the HCHO and CO measurements between the transect start and stop time was used to calculate
225 each NEMR. NEMR uncertainties shown are the uncertainties in the slope of the linear least-squares fits to the
226 data.
227