

# Use of Air Sensors for Short Duration and High Concentration Emissions

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# Background

- Determine emission factors from open combustion sources – estimate downwind concentrations, risk assessments
- Plume concentration varies rapidly: dilution, change in wind direction
- Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) can quickly change directions both horizontally and vertically



Photo by Jesse Juchter



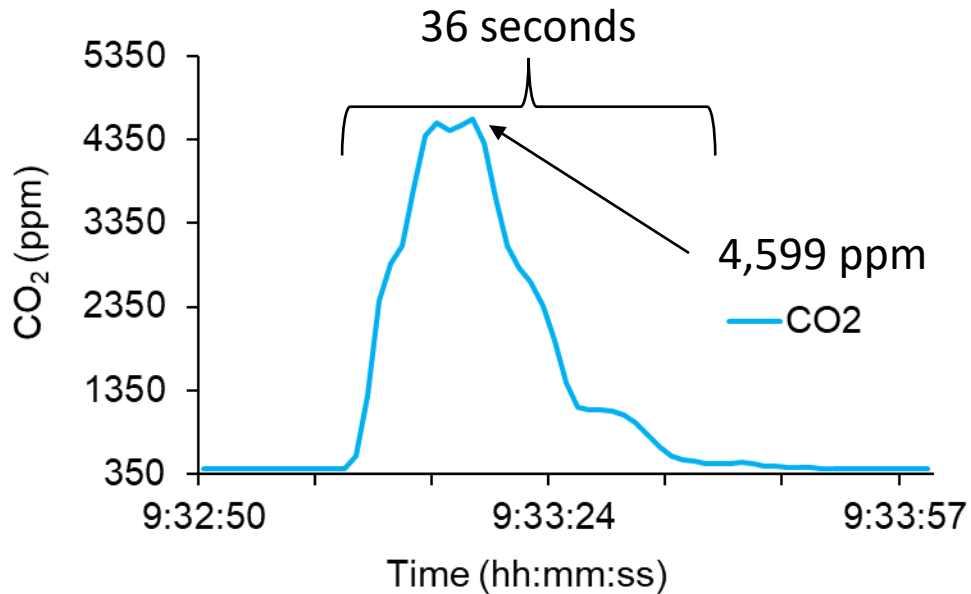
# Plume Concentration

Concentration Range – source dependent

- PM: 0 - 150 mg/m<sup>3</sup>
- CO: 0 - 500 ppm
- CO<sub>2</sub>: 400 - 10,000 ppm



## Open Burning of Military Ordnance

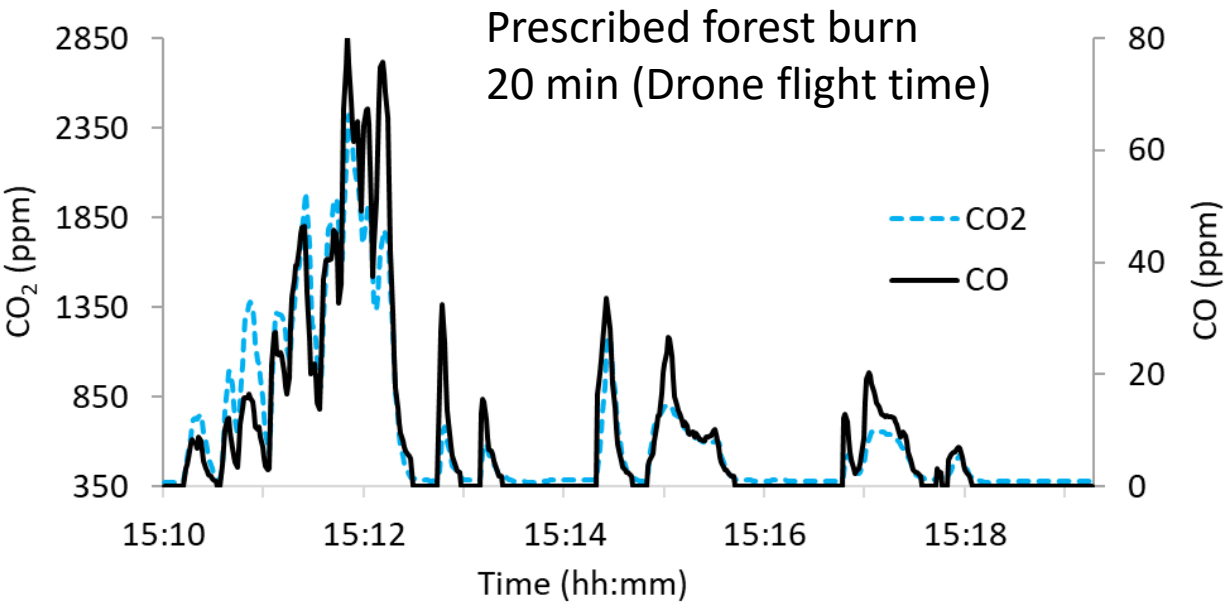
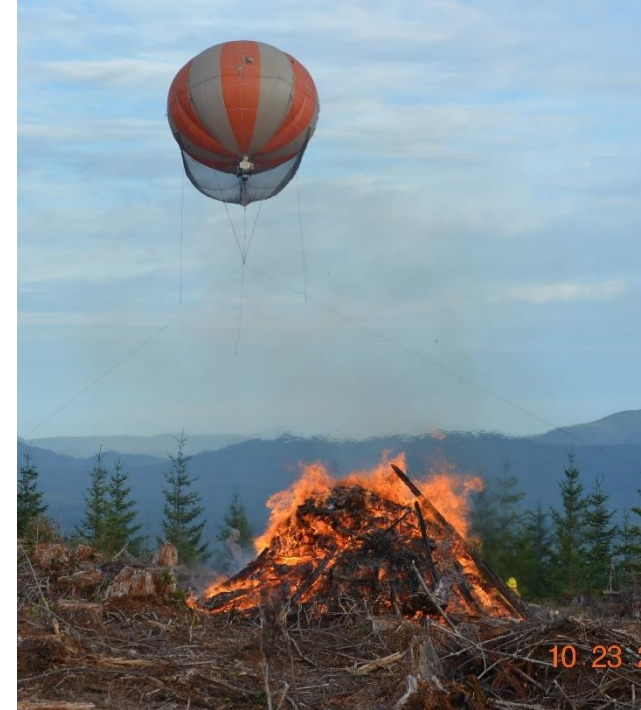




# Plume Duration

Duration – source dependent

- Open detonation - 20 seconds
- Prescribed forest burns - all day event





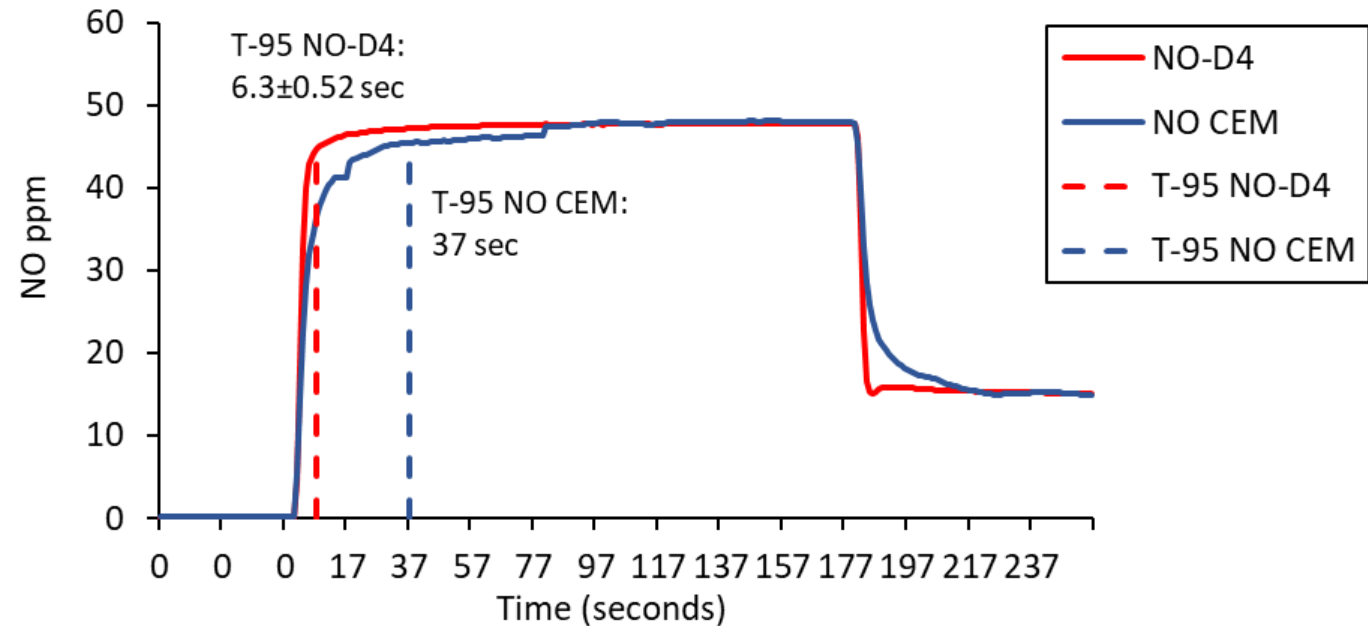
# Sensor Requirements

- Fast response time
- Low noise level
- Low drift (8-12-hour period)
- Precision and Accuracy
- Low interference to CO and other gases



# Sensor Testing (I)

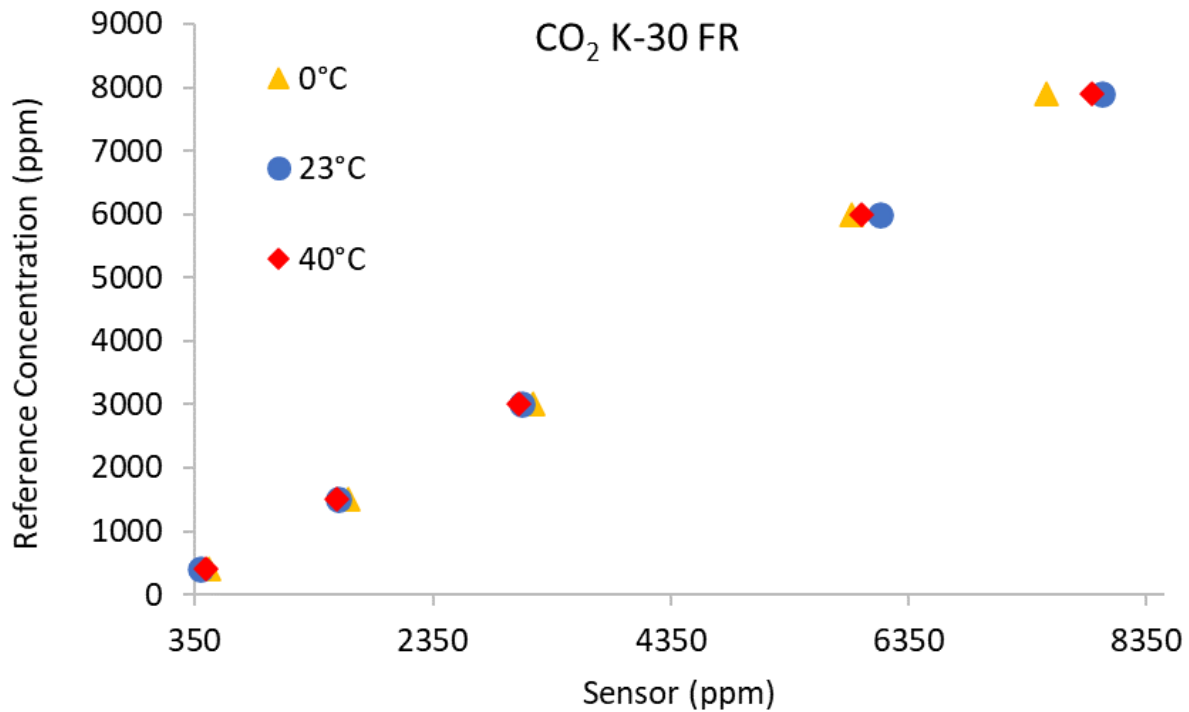
- Response time ( $t_{95}$ )
- Detection limit: lowest signal above zero
- Noise: short duration deviation of the sensor's signal
- Calibration curve: relation between sensor signal and true value
- Drift: concentration change with time
- Concentration accuracy and precision
- Reproducibility: multiple sensors



# Sensor Testing (II)

- Environmental conditions: temperature, humidity
- Interference: signal caused by substance other than measured

Temperature Check 0-40°C



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Air Sensors Quality Assurance Workshop, RTP NC



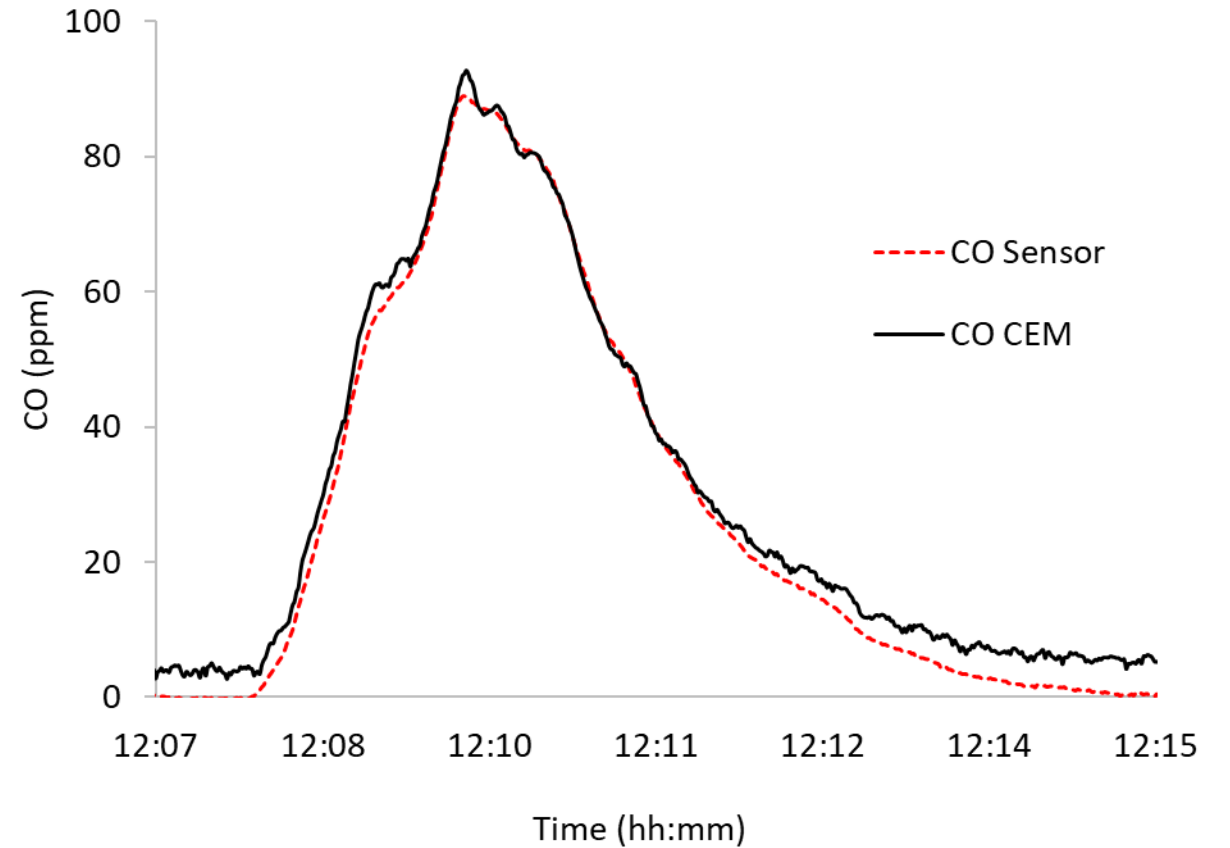


# Sensor Testing (III)

- Determine sensor performance against research-grade instrument during realistic field conditions



Laboratory test: CO sensor comparison





# In-Field Calibration Measurements

- Reference gas: 3-point calibration
- Sensor stability: lack of variability in the sensor's signal
- Linearity check: change in sensor's signal with tested reference gas
- Calibration verification - midpoint check: reference gas vs calibration curve

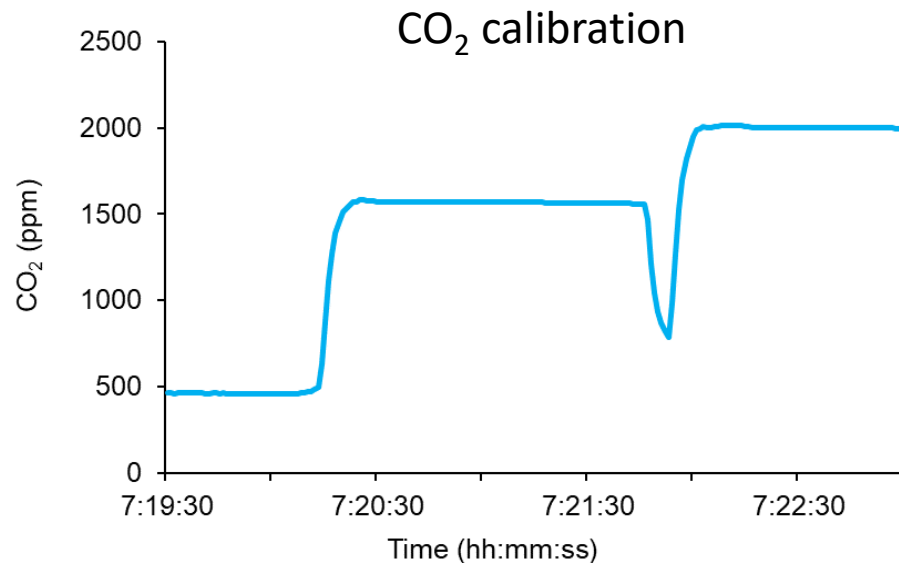


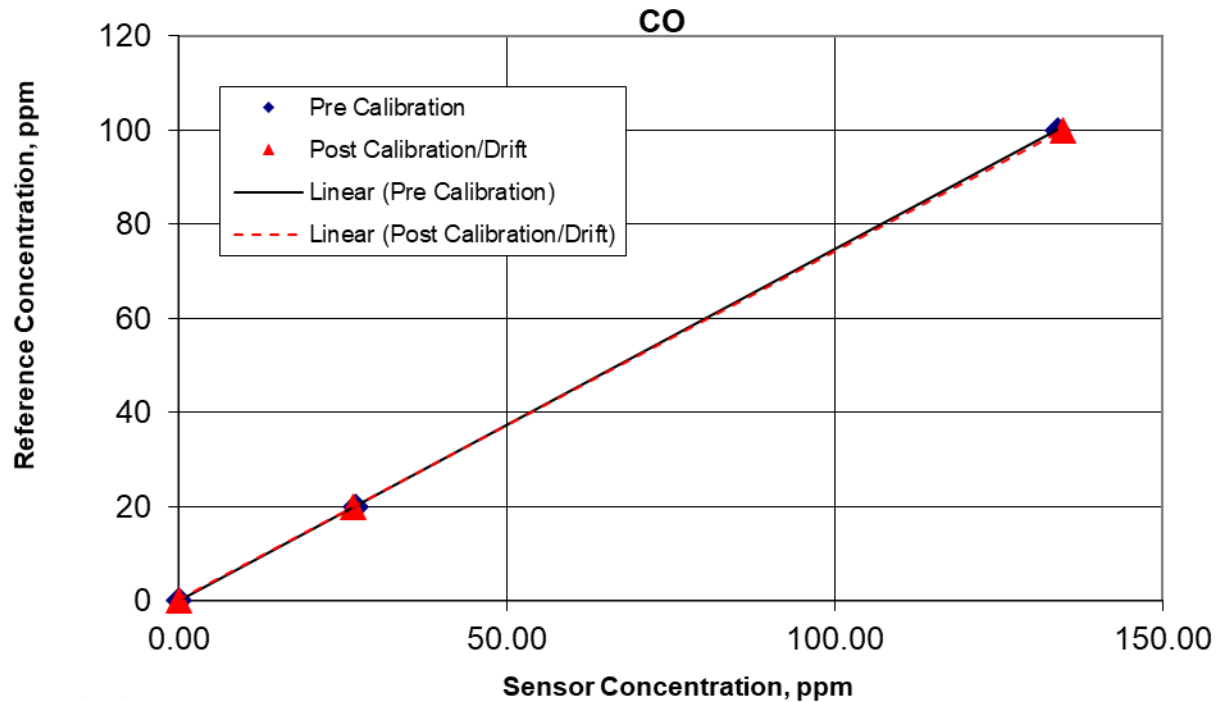
Photo by Rob Elleman

# In-Field Drift Measurements

- Same day drift
- Repeat of the calibration procedure
- Drift:  $\leq 5\%$  of initial calibration value



### Calibration and Drift Curves



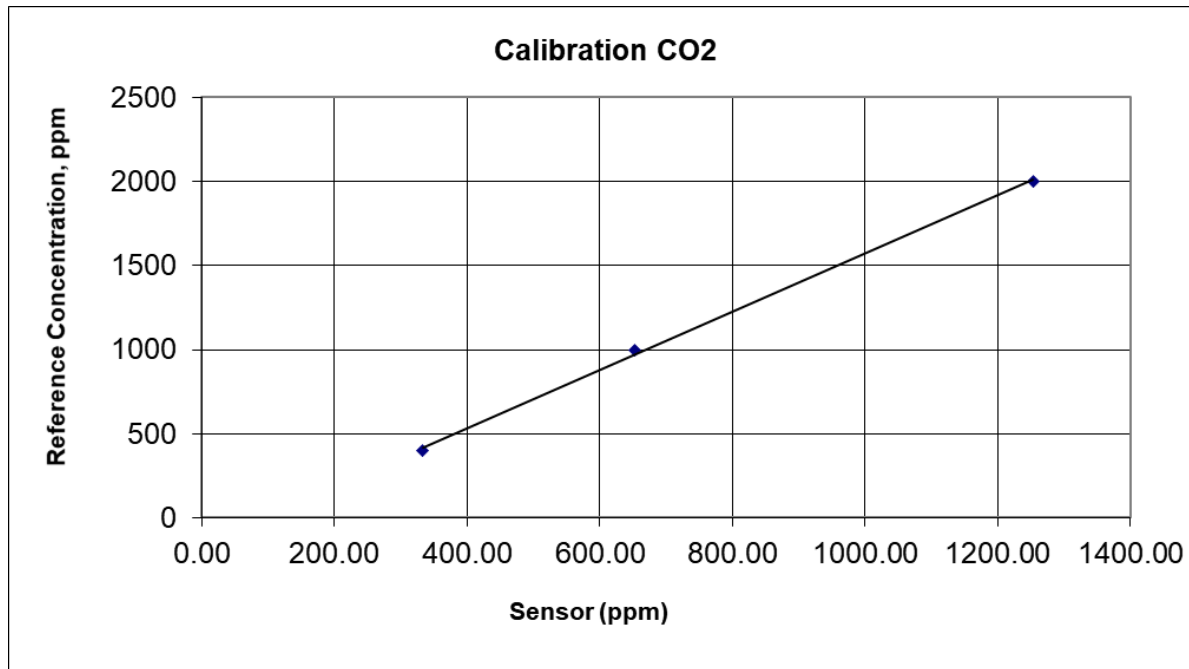


# Environmental Impacts

Pressure

High Altitude Calibration NDIR: cal gas 400 ppm = 330 ppm sensor

NDIR = Non-dispersive infrared



# Literature

OTM-48



NOx Sampling using UAS



Sensor System



Emission Factors from  
Grassland



OTM = Other Test Method