



# BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE AIR PROGRAM

## New Sensors

**The Air Program has added new sensors to our professional/industry level air quality probe.** Made for indoor use, the probe can be used by the Air Quality Specialist to detect the presence and concentrations of a selection of pollutants and chemicals inside of a room or building, for comparison with ambient air. With the new probe we have the capability to log short-term or measure “snapshot” levels of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compound chemicals, (VOCs) and hydrogen sulfide gas (H<sub>2</sub>S), and to produce reports. Additionally, we have meters for humidity, moisture content in building materials, air flow/leakage, and temperature. The Air Program’s portable CO monitor is NOT an alarm/detector which signals unsafe levels for occupants, it can only be used for diagnostics and statistical reports. This service may be available, depending on assessment screening protocol, to Tribal departments in nonresidential buildings on the reservation as-needed basis, residents who have working CO monitors installed for wood-burning, and other partnering agencies. For more info contact the Air Program at 760-784-9308.

**Now is a good time of year to make sure you have a working CO detector installed in your home and/or workplace. If you have any combustion devices or stoves in your home, or an attached garage, install a monitor. CO is deadly!**

## Equipment Audits

**For the Air Program, fall means equipment audits.** Audits are external (third party) checks performed on all the weather sensors and all the air quality monitors each year. Additionally, we check the instruments on many other frequencies— semiannually, quarterly, monthly, biweekly, weekly and even near-daily for various criteria. We also get factory-calibration on *our own* calibration flow devices for the particulate monitors every summer. Another successful audit took place in September. We have revised the method of quality-checking the precipitation sensor gauge at the station, and are not using the 500 ml “flush” type calibrator kit at this time, after installation of a manual official NWS gauge in 2017 has evidenced that this calibration procedure including its frequency may not necessarily ensure proper reading of rain events and may result in an overage of adjustments. All audit reports are posted to the Air Library online.