

Shingletown Emerg.Radio: Q Code **SMOKE REPORT-WORD MEANINGS FMT MIKE 7** [Web Site - Public](#)

NOTE: If a formal SMOKE CHECK NET IS ACTIVATED, THEN FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES IN FORMAT K4R.		
Preferable to use "Q CODE". If actual "smoke" or "fire" then use "PLAIN ENGLISH". [Beacon "ii" or "T" (long tone), as appropriate, then PAUSE BEFORE TRANSMITTING]		Comments / Explanations
Each of below can be addressed to: a specific station you are calling / stations in a specific area / or ALL stations.		
Q Code	PLAIN ENGLISH	
QWA	<p>"SCAN - NOTHING TO REPORT".</p> <p>Examples: "SCAN NOTHING TO REPORT".</p> <p>Home QTH - say - "THIS IS K6PDS ON [INSERT FRQ] SCAN Nothing to Report, OUT"</p> <p>OR - PREFERRED: "THIS IS K6PDS ON [76] QWA, OUT"</p> <p>Other QTH - e.g., say - " THIS IS K6PDS ON [76] QTH REEDS MARKET, SCAN Nothing to Report, OUT"</p>	<p>"SCAN Nothing to Report" "QWA" means: "I have made outdoor observations at current location / All Appears fine - No suspect Smoke or Fire observed. I did NOT do a search. I merely made a 360 degree turn and observed ground, trees and sky areas as I made observations." (see Procedure, below).</p> <p>DO NOT REPORT LISTING FORMAT TANGO 4 ITEMS FOR THIS. NOTE: This is a statement that you make without having been asked to conduct a smoke check. You are merely informing others on frequency of your observations. Recommend each station do this during day time.</p>
<p>PROCEDURE: The Q Codes are an abbreviated information reporting system. If there is an actual Smoke Check Net Activation, then you will report every item on Format Tango 4 verbally (i.e., a verbal detailed report). However, to facilitate goal of 24/7 Scan The Plan monitoring, the Q Codes allow very brief reporting in a summarized format. Thus, to issue a QWA, you will have done a 360 degree scan. You will have made the same observations as you would have for formal Format Tango 4 report, but you would merely say your ultimate conclusion - i.e., "[your call sign] QWA, out". Thus, with the abbreviated Q Codes, you to try to avoid the use of terms "no smoke" "no fire" while providing your "conclusion". Why? The goal is to avoid the need for a station to ask you to repeat because they heard the word "smoke" but didn't copy your entire statement. Of course, if there is smoke or fire, you say so. The Goal is -short crisp, and accurate reports. In this way Station Operators will be more inclined to actually monitor, because they are not having to listen to a lot of chatter, back and forth discussions, clarifications; and are not expected to respond to your report, unless you ask (e.g., "over" is asking for reply, "copy?").</p> <p>[SER procedure - if at home QTH only say your call sign. If not at home QTH then give your specific/exact QTH.]</p>		
QWB	<p>"BLOWING EMBERS FROM FIRE [give fire location, wind speed, and wind direction relative to fire location]"</p>	<p>Spot fires may result. It is recommended that everyone have at their home QTH preparations, including water hoses, shovel(s), and 50 gallon water storage containers(s) (or more) with buckets. Do this BEFORE there is a fire. Make sure home "ember safe".</p>
QWC [DO ON PRIM FREQ.]	<p>"CONDUCT SMOKE CHECK"</p> <p>Examples: Specific station: "k6zzz this is k6jjj, ON [INSERT FREQ] QWC, STANDING BY." Specific Area: " Shasta Forest Village Stations, this is K6PDS, ON [INSERT FREQ] QWC, STANDING BY". All Stations: " ALL Stations, this is K6PDS ON [76], QWC, STANDING BY".</p>	<p>"CONDUCT SMOKE CHECK" means:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> " Go outside your QTH and merely make a 360 degree turn and observe ground, trees and sky areas observing if there is any suspect smoke or fire (do NOT do a search); AND NEXT REPORT BACK AND USE FORMAT TANGO 4." <p>NOTE: THIS IS NOT A SMOKE ALERT ACTIVATION. It could be that a BBQ just started, or persons burning paper in a fireplace, or forest fire starting, etc... . BASED ON RESULTS, Decide next course of action.</p>
QWE	<p>"Fire ENGINE activity - CONDUCT SMOKE CHECK".</p>	<p>SEE QWC for definition of "CONDUCT SMOKE CHECK"</p>
QWF	<p>" There is SMOKE in AO WHICH APPEARS TO BE SOURCED FROM FIREPLACES AND/OR CONTROLLED BURNS.. [qth of such AO]. My report which follows, recognizes such and is directed towards reporting any other smoke or fire that is suspect. If any station has additional information please advise"</p>	<p>NOTE / EXPLANATION: "QWF" IS YOUR CONSIDERED VIEWPOINT THAT THE SOURCE OF SMOKE IS FROM FIREPLACES AND/OR CONTROLLED BURNS. [YOU BASE THIS UPON YOUR OBSERVATIONS AT THE TIME].</p> <p>THUS, YOU SEE SMOKE ON THE RIDGE AND IT "APPEARS TO BE FROM A CONTROLLED BURN". BUT THIS IS NOT A GUARANTEE. That is why other stations are asked, as part of the QWF, to provide additional information [if they are aware].</p> <p>IF YOU HAVE DETERMINED THAT THE SOURCE IS IN FACT FROM A "CONTROLLED BURN OR FIREPLACE" THEN YOU WOULD FOLLOW THE QWF WITH "CONFIRMED".</p> <p>THUS: " QWF HIGHWAY 44 MARKER 2300 CONFIRMED."</p>
QWG	<p>"ALL STATIONS - GENERAL SMOKE CHECK - ALL STATIONS CONDUCT SMOKE CHECK"</p>	<p>There is no emergency. This is a GENERAL request for ALL station operators to CONDUCT A SMOKE CHECK. There is NO report of smoke or fire. SEE QWC for "CONDUCT SMOKE CHECK"</p>
QWH	<p>"Air Craft - __[area over]__. [All stations / stations in specified area] CONDUCT SMOKE CHECK"</p>	<p>Air Craft or HELICOPTER Activity. SEE QWC for definition of "CONDUCT SMOKE CHECK"</p>
QWi	<p>INFORMATION / ADVISORY ONLY - NO ACTION OR RESPONSE REQUESTED - UNLESS A STN HAS ADDIT. INFO.</p>	<p>e.g., "QWi fire reported at __ [has been reported to 911] [fire dept on scene] [engines in route] [%contained] etc..."</p> <p>e.g., " QWi - today is a burn day above __ Ft. Elevation, per CalFire"</p>

Shingletown Emerg.Radio: Q Code **SMOKE REPORT-WORD MEANINGS FMT MIKE 7** [Web Site - Public](#)

QWK	“There is a KNOWN fire in area. [QTH of fire] and I understand Fire Dept. is responding or has responded. My reporting recognizes such and is directed towards reporting any other suspect smoke or fire. If any station has additional information please advise.”	Example: “THIS IS K6PDS ON [76] QWK Manton at Digger Butte, QWA, OUT”.
QWL	“ LIGHTENING strikes observed and/or expected [over area]. All stations go to higher awareness level. Make frequent SMOKE OBSERVATIONS. REPORT AS/ IF NECESSARY. ” Following Lightening Stikes, a fire may develop over the course of a short time, up to approx. 2 weeks. Thus, if station operators are driving, they should have a higher level of alert during such times. Have your radio, cell phone and a compass to give bearings, etc... .	“ SMOKE OBSERVATIONS ” means: “ 1. Conduct Smoke Observations = YOU DO QWC (STEP 1) BUT, 2. NO need to report unless you have Something to report. ”
QWN	“ [station you are calling] – REPORT - SMOKE CHECK , NOTHING OBSERVED Report Follows [use FORMAT Tango 4]. ”	MEANING of: “ NOTHING OBSERVED ”. “ 1. YOU CONDUCTED A SMOKE CHECK (SEE QWC); and . 2. YOU ARE GIVING REPORT USING Format Tango 4]”. NOTE: This is a response to a request that someone made for a smoke check.
QWO	“ OBSERVED – General Smoke / Haze Conditions – Visibility: There is General Smoke / Haze Conditions in our area of operation. My report recognizes such and is directed towards reporting any other suspect smoke or fire Any Station with additional info. please advise. Otherwise, no action planned.”	Means: “ 1. It appears that General Atmospheric smoke is in our AO. 2. Source suspected from activity not in our immediate AO. 3. If any Station has additional information please advise. 4. Otherwise, no action is planned.” SEE QWO MODIFIERS – DIFINED AT PAGES 4 AND 5.
QWO NOTE: DO NOT SAY “SMOKE” – INSTEAD SAY “QWO” or “QWO all directions same – Moderate” (see Column IV on Fmt. Tango 4 for criteria). Another Example: “QWO North West – Heavy” [See PROCEDURE, above regarding terms “smoke”] .		
QWP	“ POWER LINES down. Risk of Fire and/or Electrical Danger [give QTH of Power Line Down Location]”	Means: “1. Conduct Smoke Observations (defined SEE QWL); BUT 2. NO need to report unless you have something to report. ”
QWR	“ RADIO TRAFFIC [location unknown / or area of concern is] . All stations, CONDUCT SMOKE CHECK. ”	“Cal Fire RADIO Traffic (or other source) indicates potential fire – location unknown [or stated general area of concern]. Conduct Smoke Check (See QWC).” DO QWC
QWS	“ SMOKE / [fire] sighted ” [USE FORMAT TANGO 4]. Then as appropriate: “ SITUATION WAS REPORTED ” OR “ NEED RELAY ” “ Location is _____ ” ETC...	Priority / Emergency - smoke or fire sighted. Give QTH of fire/smoke (use FMT TANGO 4 METHODS) CALL 911 AND REPORT THE FIRE/SMOKE LOCATION. IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE EXACT LOCATION IN THE FOREST (CALL 911 AND GIVE GENERAL AREA), THEN ASK OTHER OPERATORS TO TAKE COMPASS BEARINGS FROM KNOWN LOCATIONS FOR TRIANGULATION. THEN MAP IT AND REPORT LOCATION (I.E., CALL 911 AGAIN WITH UPDATE).
QWT	“ Travel Mode ” [recommend we use the Q Code so other hams don't think you are mobile and talking; and then they, although well meaning, start interrupting our procedures for smoke reporting.]	“I am in Travel Mode (scanning the Plan Frequencies) and not at my home QTH. If a location follows, it is the location where I was when the observations being reported on (if any) were made. I am making this report from a safe location off of the roadway. ”
QWU	“ REPORT- FIELD SMOKE CHECK – UNABLE TO LOCATE. ” [USE FORMAT TANGO 4]	“I went out looking for smoke or fire at [insert specific observation location(s)] and UNABLE to locate any source of smoke or fire.
QWV	“ VIGILANT WATCH ALERT ”	“Be on ALERT due to any / all of the following: High Fire Danger; Red Flag Warning; High Winds advisory; illegal burning / camp fires; and/or any POTENTIAL arsonists (REPORT – DO NOT ENGAGE). * (If arsonists are reported – then [] .
QWW *	Reserved	
QWY *	Reserved	

Shingletown Emerg.Radio: Q Code **SMOKE REPORT-WORD MEANINGS FMT MIKE 7** [Web Site - Public](#)

OTHER SER PRO WORDS:	SER MEANINGS:
“NEED RELAY”	I need a station to relay my information to 911 or other....
“REPORT - SMOKE CHECK” “REPORT - FIELD SMOKE CHECK”	Use FORMAT TANGO Tango 4. Use FORMAT TANGO Tango 4.
“SITUATION WAS REPORTED”	I have already reported situation to 911, or other... .
“OUT”	MEANING: You do not expect a reply to your transmission, and communications has ended between you and the other station. NO REPLY IS EXPECTED.
“QRT”	MEANING IS: “I am suspending operation”. [closing down my station].

While Traveling Use QWT Procedures

QWT - “I am in Travel Mode and not at my home QTH. If a location follows, it is the location where I was when the observations being reported on (if any) were made. I am making this report from a safe location off of the roadway.”

Sample Transmission	Meaning
“This is K6XYZ QWT, out.”	“I am in travel mode and scanning the Plan Frequencies.”
“This is K6XYZ QWT highway 44 marker 2600 Echo, QWA, out”	“[insert above meaning of QWT code] and the following Observation was made from mileage marker 26.00 on highway 44 while heading East bound, QWA, out.” [Note: since a direction of travel is indicated, then this was a looking forward and left/right limited scan when you <i>were</i> driving.]
“This is K6XYZ QWT Costco Redding, QWA, out”	[insert above meaning of QWT code] and the following Observation was made from Costco in Redding, QWA, out” [Note: since no direction of travel is stated, this is a 360 degree scan.]

Explanation: **In January 2017, AB 1785 went into effect** and prohibits use of a "wireless device" while driving. Unfortunately, the term "wireless device" has been broadly interpreted by some to include mobile radios, nullifying the amateur radio exemption that had previously been in place. We could be ticketed (and there are reports that some have been) for using our mobile radio while driving.

Until the law can be clarified to assure that mobile operations while driving are legal, we are going to make the following changes to our procedure. **No longer advise you are “Mobile”.** Use “QWT” and below procedure.

Recommended Procedure: If someone attempts contact with you while you are driving, or you wish to initiate contact with someone while you are driving, then: Before responding, or initiating contact, the traveling Station Operator(s) is to locate a convenient and safe location to pull off the roadway, stop their vehicle, and make a contact, or make a smoke report. In no case should the traveler stop on the side of a freeway; you should pull off at an exit, stop in a safe location and call in. Where possible plan your travel so contacts are made prior to entering a freeway or after exiting one.

PLEASE CARRY THIS FORM AND OTHER SMOKE REPORT FORMS WITH YOU AND YOUR RADIO

- 1. FOR ACTIVATED FORMAL SMOKE REPORT NET USE FORMAT K4R.**
- 2. FOR FORMAL NET REPORTING ON KNOWN FOREST FIRE USE QXi B**
- 3. The above are “special” local Shingletown Smoke Report Q Codes to assist with smoke /fire detection, and reporting, in our mountainous area with shifting winds, and terrain which makes locating a fire difficult.**
- 4. We need Ham Radio Operators to assist. We need a Net work of Station Operators following the plan.**

If you see a fire – call 911 and report it. This is not a substitute for 911.

NOTE: IF YOU ARE REALLY CONCERNED, BE SURE TO CALL 911. THEN ACTIVATE SMOKE REPORT NET USE **K4R**

Shingletown Emerg.Radio: Q Code **SMOKE REPORT-WORD MEANINGS FMT MIKE 7** [Web Site - Public](#)

LAT / LONG CONVERSIONS:

Deg. Min. Sec. / Degrees & Dec.Min / Decimal Degrees to proof this section

Underlined portion is what is converted in each of below:

Deg. Min. Sec.	Degrees & Dec. Min.	Decimal Degrees
=====	=====	=====
40° 05' <u>18"</u>	40° 05'	

ACTION: 18 /60 Converted>> .3
 Result>> = 40° 05.3

=====	=====	=====
40° <u>05.3</u>	40°	

ACTION 05.3 /60 Converted>> .08833
 Result>> = 40 .08833°

=====	=====	=====
40°	40	<u>.08833</u> °

05.3	<<Converted	.08833	X 60 ← ACTION
40° 05.3	<<Result		

=====	=====	=====
40° 05'	40° 05' <u>.3</u>	

18"	<<Converted	.3	X 60 ← ACTION
40° 05' 18"	<<Result		

=====

QWO Modifiers: “None”, “Light”, “Moderate”, “Heavy”.

“Visible Range” = the point at which even high-contrast objects (e.g., a dark forested mountain viewed against the sky at noon) totally disappear. (“Visible Range” DERIVED FROM: Shasta County Wildfire Smoke – a Guide for Public Health Officials – revised May 2016)

“Beyond Visible Range” = the identified object (e.g., mountain, hill, etc...) when viewed against the sky at noon” is NOT visible due to the smoke/haze.

“Heavy” = the OUTLINE of the identified object (e.g., mountain, hill, etc...) when viewed against the sky at noon is BARELY visible due to the smoke/haze.

Photo illustrates a HEAVY
HAZE CONDITION.

“Heavy”

[OUTLINE of the identified
objects BARELY visible]



Shingletown Emerg.Radio: Q Code **SMOKE REPORT-WORD MEANINGS FMT MIKE 7** [Web Site - Public](#)

“Moderate” = the identified object (e.g., mountain, hill, etc...) when viewed against the sky at noon is visible, BUT the trees, rocks, surface detail, and/or other ground terrain on the identified object are NOT visible due to the smoke/haze.

<p>Buildings on left illustrate a Moderate Haze condition.</p> <p>“Moderate”</p> <p>[Details on surface not visible]</p>		<p>Building on extreme right illustrates a Light Haze condition.</p> <p>“Light”</p> <p>[Details on surface visible]</p>
--	--	---

“Light” = the identified object (e.g., mountain hill, etc...) when viewed against the sky at noon is visible AND the trees, rocks, surface detail, and/or other ground terrain on the identified object are ALSO VISIBLE.

<p>buildings in background illustrates a</p> <p>“Light” Haze condition</p> <p>[details on surfaces visible]</p>		
---	---	--

ILLUSTRATION OF A LIGHT, TO MODERATE, TO HEAVY TRANSITION

		
--	--	--

Obviously, we will not be limiting our reports to “noon”.

It is important for the reporter to give his location, the ID of the object he is looking at, and a best estimate of distance from his location to the object.

Examples of Report:

“K... QWT 44/Millville plains, East Bound

QWO [viewing] Black Butte light , Shingletown ridge moderate, Mt Lassen-Beyond Visible Range, Burney MT Heavy”

QWA, OUT” [This report gives your location and known objects with known distances].

A partial example: “QWO” [your location and direction of view] “... Visible Range 15 miles” ... [another way to advise of the distance].