As a public health official, you are asked by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) to investigate the environmental disaster, assess the human health impact, and present some course of action to ensure public health.

1. Based on the Satellite maps, in what countries and states would you expect to see effects from the Mexican fires? Go ahead and label as many as you can on the first map.

Answer: The plume appears to be going from South Central Mexico in the easterly direction of Cuba and Florida (US); parts of Central America could be affected as well.

2. What other kinds of data, besides the maps, would you like to have to begin the assessment?

Answer: you might want to have air measurements of particulate and other smoke constituents with ongoing monitoring at the locations where you think the particulate plume is heading.

3. What kinds of human health effects might you expect from the Mexican fires in these locations?

Answer: As described above, you might expect to see increases in acute asthma as well as morbidity and mortality among people with existing lung disease.

4. What particular human populations may be at increased risk for health effects from the Mexican fires in these locations?

Answer: Children, the elderly, and people with underlying lung disease are at particular risk of health effects from the plume of these fires.

5. What other kinds of data, besides the maps, would you like to have to begin the assessment?

Answer: you might want to collect data from emergency rooms and doctors offices about visits by people with asthma and other lung diseases.

6. What can you do to decrease the health impact of the plume of the Mexican fires on the people of the Florida coast?

Answer: You need to educate the public and healthcare professionals about the possible dangers of this smoke plume. You can try to get the message out through public service messages through radio, TV, internet, Posters, and mailings. You might want to recommend that people at increased risk should stay in doors while particulate levels in the air are high.
7. How will you know when the danger is past?

**Answer:** You can review the Satellite photos as well as any on the ground particulate air monitoring. You can also review the human case data to see if the rates of asthma and other lung disease patients at emergency rooms and doctors offices have decreased.