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Where there's smoke, there's fire – but what's in the smoke? A recent air quality study from the University of Colorado Boulder has confirmed the findings of earlier laboratory experiments that show that grass and crop fire smoke carries greater amounts of nitrogen-containing volatile organic compounds – NVOCs – than wood fire smoke. In the February issue of EARTH Magazine, learn how scientists are using NVOCs to identify different types of smoke, and track fires around the globe.

The February issue of EARTH Magazine is now available online. Hear about how marine scientists have embedded robotic sensors in mussel beds to measure climate change impacts. Or read how the findings of a new study in Nature are challenging our understanding of how canyons are formed. For these stories and more, subscribe to EARTH Magazine.

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