A “PyroCb” is a thunderstorm which forms over a wildfire.

Aerosols from the fire can significantly alter the microphysical evolution of the storm, compared to nearby “clean” convection.

PyroCbs often have very small cloud-top ice crystals, and their anvils tend to have long residence times.

Aerosols from pyroCbs can be injected into the lower stratosphere, where they can exist for days.

An example of a pyroCb and the resulting anvil/aerosol evolution in central Alaska on 9 June 2009. The loop above is a series of GOES-11 3.9 um images from 8 July to 11 July 2009.