



FROM THE AIR PROGRAM

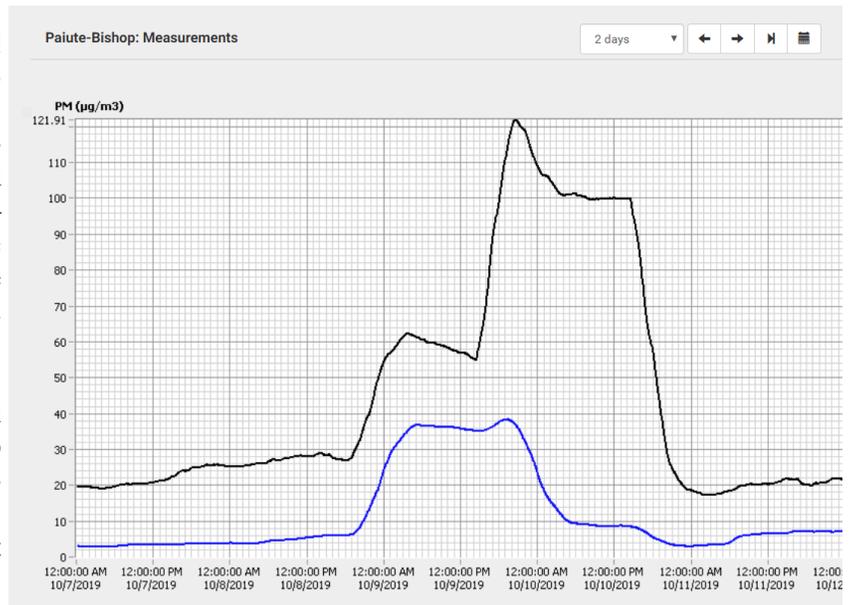
Particulate levels with wind and fire CONTINUED

In early October 2019, the reservation saw some smoke impacts from the Briceburg Fire, which started burning in the Merced River Canyon in the first days of October. Additionally, fronts passing on 9/16 and 10/9 brought wind storm conditions to the reservation for those afternoons.

Bishop saw 1 evening, 10/8, with notable smoke impacts; however, the concentrations during these hours did not cause an exceedance of the Tribal (and state) PM2.5 24-hour (midnight-to-midnight PST) standard, with the actual PM2.5 24-hour average being 28.21 ug/m3. The PM10 standard was exceeded on 10/8 due to smoke concentrations in the evening hours, with the actual 24-hour average being 54 ug/m3.

The PM10 standard was also exceeded during the afternoon hours on 10/9, due to winds during a weather change (front). This wind event was somewhat unusual because no weather hazard products— i.e. wind advisory, warning, or red flag warning— were issued for the Owens Valley by the NWS Las Vegas office for the day. The PM10 24-hour average concentration was 108.84 ug/m3, with the highest concentrations occurring from 3 pm to 8 pm PST. During this time, the Tribal weather station recorded northerly winds and wind gusts up to 40 mph, with the maximum gust occurring during the 7 pm hour PST.

October also saw the first freezing night time temps of the season (but those not considered a hard freeze).



Graph: 10/7/19 to 10/11/19 PM10 (black) and PM2.35 (blue) 24-hr concentrations—rolling averages

e-cigarettes: “Severe Pulmonary Disease” is now EVALI

Last month, the Air Program newsletter covered the status of CDC-led investigation into hospitalizations and deaths related to vaping and e-cigarettes. As you may have heard, the CDC is now calling these incidents of “severe pulmonary disease” EVALI, for *e-cigarette vaping associated lung injury*. As there’s no outcome of the investigation yet, coverage in this newsletter will be limited to report that cases officially marked as related to “EVALI” are now reported in all US states except Alaska and reports of related deaths have occurred. The information in the last (October) newsletter remains valid.

Air Quality Monitoring Systems Audit

In September, the Tribe’s air quality and weather station had the annual third party equipment audit, to verify continuing proper function of the station equipment.

The audit was successful. Audit reports are posted at <http://www.bishoptribeemo.com/library.htm> Additionally, the Air Program performed a parts exchange on the PM2.5 monitor, extending the operation of the monitor into 2020.