



From the AIR PROGRAM

Smoke & Wildfire Season 2020

The impacts of wildfire smoke on our local air quality were lost on no-one during the 2020 wildfire season (which now extends into fall). The BPT air monitors recorded the highest possible concentrations, meaning they hit the upper limit of the recording instrumentation, as well as off the charts of the AQI (Air Quality Index). The Air program coordinates with Fire Air Resource Advisors, KBPT Radio, other Owens Valley tribes' air quality programs, and GBUAPCD during the wildfire seasons, focusing on concentration data, air web cam photos, smoke forecasts, and other updates. During August and September *thus far*, there were **13** full days with at least an exceedance of the Tribal and State 24-hour (midnight-to-midnight) concentration standards for **PM10** (which is 50 ug/m3) or for **PM2.5** (which is 35 ug/m3) at the Bishop Reservation:

- August 20:** PM10 daily average of **107** ug/m3
- August 21:** PM2.5 daily average of **59** ug/m3
- August 22:** PM2.5 daily average of **37** ug/m3
- August 31:** PM10 daily average of **66** ug/m3
- September 1:** PM2.5 daily average of **43** ug/m3
- September 6:** PM10 daily average of **117** ug/m3
- *September 7:** PM2.5 daily average of **138** ug/m3, PM10 daily average of **120** ug/m3
- September 8:** PM2.5 daily average of **125** ug/m3, PM10 daily average of **367** ug/m3
- September 9:** PM2.5 daily average of **95** ug/m3
- September 11:** PM2.5 daily average of **107** ug/m3, PM10 daily average of **83** ug/m3
- September 12:** PM2.5 daily average of **47** ug/m3
- September 14:** PM2.5 daily average of **146** ug/m3, PM10 daily average of **101** ug/m3
- September 15:** PM2.5 daily average of **312** ug/m3, PM10 daily average of **156** ug/m3

- ⇒ ***PM10 v PM2.5:** PM10 includes PM2.5 in reality. In the measurement systems however, PM2.5 can occasionally exceed PM10 because the 2 monitors are actually different engineering designs which measure particles using different methods, each across an hourly average.
- ⇒ Contact the Air Program for more info (760-784-9308) or you can visit (currently needs to be Microsoft Edge browser) <http://bishoptribeemo.com/monitoring.htm>. You can also go to the Tribal home page, navigate to the Environmental page, then click the tab for Air, then the tab for Resources.
- ⇒ Also find BPT's air quality data at www.QREST.net (click on circle for BPT station on map)

Photos: A USFS smoke forecast graphic showing Hazardous concentrations across the west and north flank of the Creek Fire; and on 9/7, PM10 measurements temporarily hit the upper limit of the monitor's logging system at the Bishop Reservation (900 ug/m3)

