

FROM THE AIR PROGRAM



DUE TO HIGH STATEWIDE FIRE RISK

THE STATEWIDE SUSPENSION ON BURN PERMITS CONTINUES!

Permits may be reinstated after the first heavy rains in the fall.

More info here: <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/debrisburning>

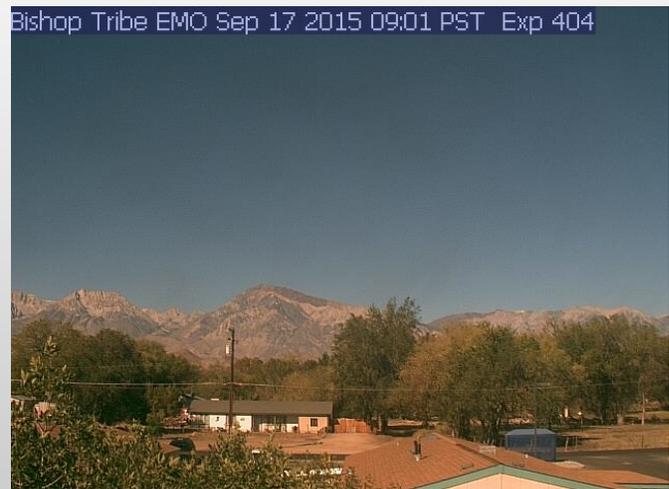
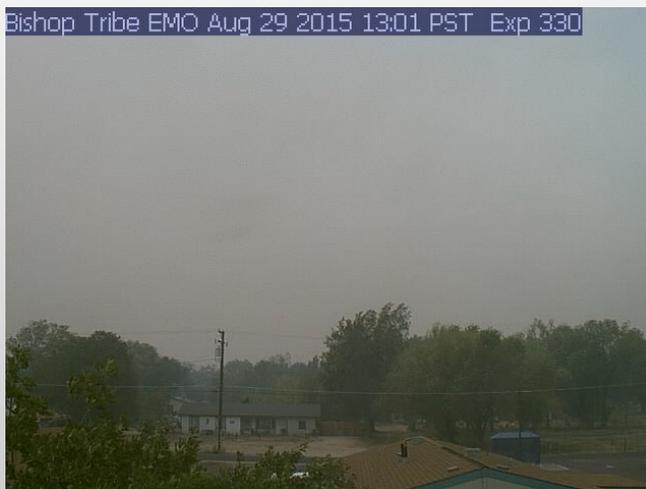
This Month's Air Quality Reviewed...

Data collected by EMO shows high concentrations of particulate matter and poor air quality during the Rough Fire and other wildfires. Since July 31st the Rough Fire has been burning South and West of Bishop. Closures occurred in Sierra National Forest, Sequoia National Forest, and Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks. As of September 17th, the fire had expanded to cover more than 141,000 acres. The fire remained at under 30% containment for weeks, however, efforts to increase containment and weather changes during the second week of September brought containment to 67% by the 17th.

The fire impacted visibility on the Bishop Paiute Reservation. Shown below are 2 "during and after" photos captured by the Tribal Air Program's webcam.

AUGUST 29TH, 1:00 PM PST

SEPTEMBER 17, 9:00 AM PST



The August 29th picture represents some of the worst visibility and the highest concentration of particulate matter. PM-10, particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter reached 430 micrograms/cubic meter and PM-2.5 a better measure of smoke, reach 251 micrograms/cubic meter, the highest level EMO has recorded. This level of air quality is considered to be unhealthy, but not hazardous, by the EPA Air Quality Index. In contrast, the level measured of PM-10 during the second photo was roughly 12 micrograms/cubic meter.

Smoke can have a larger impact on visibility than air quality because some particles disperse light whereas others absorb light. The net effect is reduced visibility. The highest concentrations of smoke were not sustained over days; rather they spanned a few hours, recurring during August 28th and 29th, so the health risk was probably low.

Current information is displayed at http://www.bishoptribeemo.com/index_air.htm