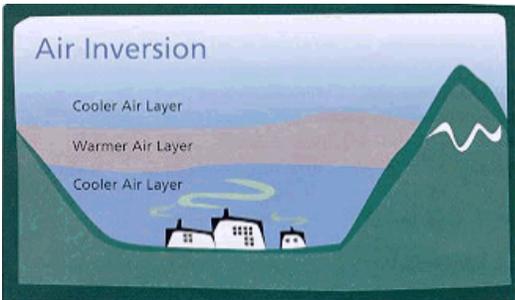




FROM THE AIR PROGRAM



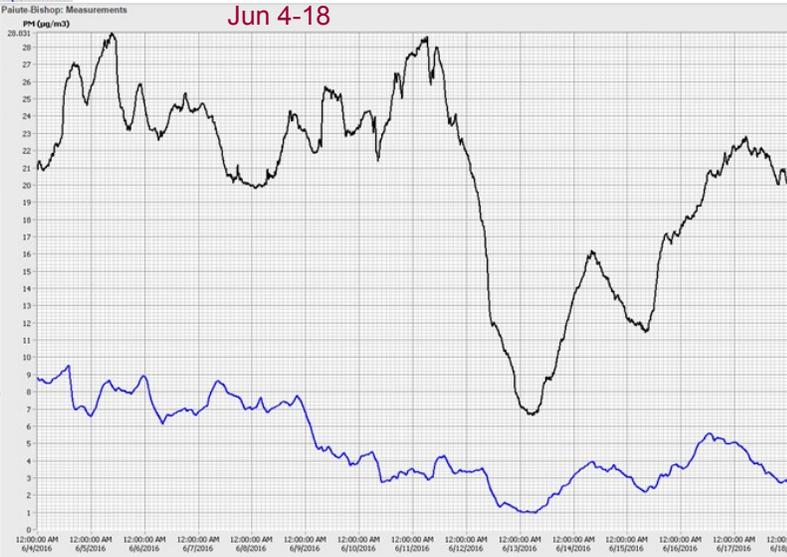
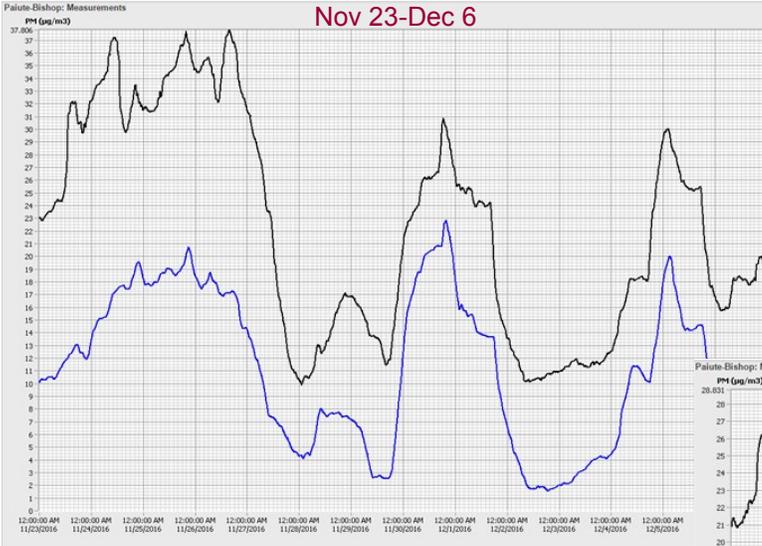
Smoky nights & recent particulate matter levels

On cold, calm evenings, smoke from home heating can be a factor of pollution in the Owens Valley and is the main source of particulate pollution in the winter. Smoke is often approximated by measuring PM-2.5, particles under 2.5 microns in diameter. The combined effects of wood smoke, and the valley air stability patterns in winter (when cold, dense air becomes trapped in the valley below a layer of warmer air, trapping household fire smoke with it) can be seen by looking at levels measured by the Tribal air monitors. In the graphs below, the **black lines are PM-10 24-hr concentrations**, which is overall smoke and dust up to that size. The **blue lines are PM-2.5 24-hr concentrations**, which can be used to approximate smoke. Keep in mind that residential fires also generate PM-10, especially when the combustion is just getting under way or throws ashes.

The 1st graph is 2 weeks from late Nov-early Dec, and shows how well PM-2.5 tracks as part of overall PM. This is because much of what both stations are measuring lately is residential wood smoke. In contrast,

the 2nd graph is 2 weeks from June, and captures some changeable weather including the hail storm on the 11th. Little PM-2.5/smoke contributes to the total PM-10 around this time, unlike winter.

The scale is in micrograms/cubic meter, and the Tribal health standards are **50 for PM-10** and **35 for PM-2.5** respectively, per 24 hrs (there are no exceedences on these graphs.)



Please see the bulletin board at the Main Office for a comprehensive list of wood burning health & safety tips! Also come into EMO-A for a BurnWise packet.

Some facts on carbon monoxide

With the long nights and cold days, we spend more time indoors with heat sources on. Generally where there is fuel combustion, there is some CO escaping, more so with malfunction, leaks or incomplete combustion. CO is colorless, odorless, and tasteless and if enough enters the body, can deprive it of oxygen and lead to suffocation. As there are many symptoms, please be aware of the possibility of CO in the house and follow these tips. Some symptoms are headaches, dizziness, flushed/red face, weakness, shortness of breath, unconsciousness, vision or hearing effects, rapid heartbeat. Installing a CO monitor/detector in your home is the best way to detect build up of CO before there is a problem.

- Never idle your car inside an attached garage.
- Keep gas appliances properly adjusted.
- Open flues when using fireplace.
- Never use charcoal grills to heat your home.
- Never use a generator indoors.
- Never use a gas oven to heat your home.
- Use proper fuel in kerosene space heaters.
- Have professionals clean and tune-up your central heating system.
- Do not ignore symptoms - Protect your family!