



From the AIR PROGRAM

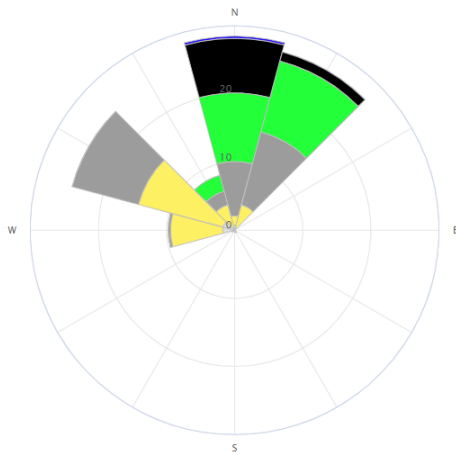
February "Slider" Storm and Airport Fire

The occurrence of the Valentine's Dust Storm is a repeating topic for the BPT Air Quality Program newsletter. Within a couple weeks of Valentine's Day in 2008, 2015, 2018, and 2022, "inside slider" storm winds drove dust, and in a couple cases brush fires rapidly along drainage pathways in the Owens Valley. You can find the newsletter articles describing the events at <https://bishoptribeemo.com/library.htm>. Fires can ignite in the Eastern Sierra during any time of year, and emergency incident command responders are on standby throughout the year.

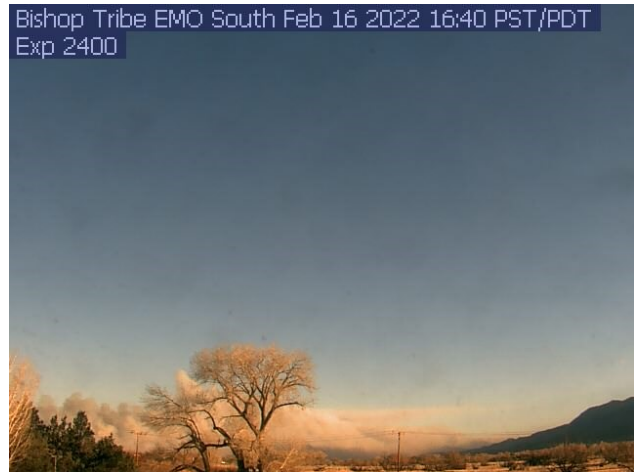
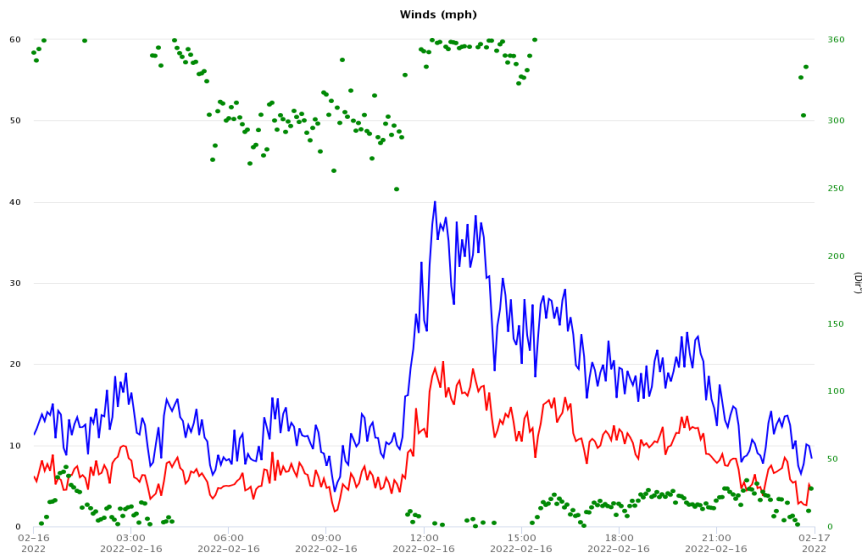
The systems known as inside sliders are sometimes identified by NWS and other weather professionals as being mid-to-late season Pacific NW (jet stream) storms that "slide" partially inland of the Pacific northern coastal barrier when they encounter the California mountain ranges. They are harder to predict than major storm systems, and bring strong winds and (typically little moisture) to eastern California.

The Airport Fire ignited on 2/16/22 and promptly became a CalFire incident. Vegetation fuels surrounding the Owens River fed the fire, which ran a stretch from just South of Poleta Road to south of Collins Road. There was no adverse smoke impact to the Bishop Reservation.

The wind rose below displays the distribution of wind directions by 30-degree wind speed sectors recorded at the BPT Air Station from 2/16/22 00:00—2/17/22 00:00. The chart displays the corresponding time-series of wind direction (green), horizontal wind speed (red), and max gust (blue); with mph on the left side scale and degrees on the right. *(images by Vista Data Vision software, T&B Systems)*



● 1 < 2.5 mph 5.22% ● 2.5 < 5 mph 28.82% ● 5 < 10 mph 31.95% ● 10 < 15 mph 23.26% ● 15 < 20 mph 9.38% ● > 20 mph 0.35%



The BPT southeast facing sky camera captured these photos of the smoke plume, as timestamped. For more info call the Air Program at 760-7845-9308