

Wildfire vs. Stagnation Impacts

Smoke impacts from recent wildfires prompted several discussions about the severity of summer-time wildfire smoke impacts in the Silver Valley versus winter-time smoke impacts when residential wood combustion is the predominant source of smoke.

The data below displays two 9-day time periods to illustrate the difference in PM_{2.5} concentrations from the recent wildfire smoke impact and a stagnation period last winter. The 2014 wildfire smoke data (blue line) represents impacts which occurred July 13-21, 2014 where the maximum hourly concentration reached 59 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The winter-time smoke data (red line) represents November 21 – 29, 2013 when the maximum hourly concentration for this 9-day period reached 95 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

