

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/11/2024 6:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: We should not hit these levels at all by intentionally set "prescribed smoke".

Attachments:

I will show you below in the comments what some of the key monitors recorded on the "AirNow . gov" network and others were able to collate report from low cost supplemental monitors. But the DEQ primary main monitor they mostly report from for regulatory compliance with the EPA was silent and falsely reassuring about this severe Air Quality disturbance for much of the city last night - because it was too far away and out of the wind stream.

Of note. All burning that was done yesterday occurred while the meteorologist source for the USFS agencies in Montana and Idaho communicated to them by Thursday night and renewed it Friday morning that smoke dispersion would be POOR for yesterday and today.

The smoke disturbances started about 7:15 PM last night 3/8/24. It would have reached Readers Alley and Reeder's Village first. They seem to have no monitors.

Then it reaches my house and the Hawthorne/Benton neighborhood. So by near 8 AM I had this on an iQAir outdoor monitor. As far as I know, I am the only person nearby who uses this brand.

But it soon showed up on the Clancy Street Monitor too. Will show it next. it is about 1 mile away and possible a little east of the initial wind stream.

My monitor which is not publicly displayed yet and they did not have direct access. My reading of calibration and validation for the older monitors such as this indicate they may not be quite as good as PurpleAir which are the dominant brand on the government AirNow network, some of which are placed here by DEQ. So they do use these.

Pioneer Park by the library is lower altitude. Smoke takes longer to sink there but stays longer too. They have been slow to improve. They are located between me and Clancy Street.

Remember. This penetrates many homes and buildings. If one doesn't have filters or air exchange - it can actually accumulate and concentrate in buildings. Including homes and schools, care centers, restaurants, businesses etc

Here are samples of next closest direction it spread - later and lesser hits in central Helena. Still not good.

Orange Street near Cherry Hill Nature Park.

One can go look at Capital High, Custer/Cooney as they wish.

However, in contrast, this is what Rossiter School Pump House, the official DEQ site shows - and you can see that it MISSES the QUALITY mark massively. It actually miscommunicates data that looks pretty mild and favorable in all the official reporting stats for the area - some of which misguide our city, county, state and federal agencies to miss the true threat levels for BOTH wildfire and prescriptive burns. It under-represents the soot and pollution here. And sadly corrective measures to reduce it, especially for intentional, semi-elective actions like

prescriptive burns do not yet seem to be adequately implemented. There are options in smoke management that are not in place for the zones closest to our city where burns are being permitted or allowed by current policies and not adequately coordinated to reduce the threat.

Here is Rossiter school pump house being inadequate, as is often the case. The only DEQ "official" monitor within city limits.

It's miles away still and sunken further into the valley floor. It mostly slept through the entire health disturbing event.

My preparation of this addendum was interrupted by another night of having smoke gases penetrating my house from evening phase of prescribed burning again tonight 3/11/2024.

While this consumed time to start air filtration and close off rooms of my house, etc, I can happily provide any of this in greater detail including monitor downloads of hourly data and NowCast EPA data handling, if requested for 3/8/2024.

The raw data at the 10 minute level showed multiple 10 minute segments of purple and maroon air quality on Clancy Street and at Pioneer park. Ten minutes blocks of averaged data has pretty high validation for these monitors now. In fact multiple hours back to back purple air quality occurred at Pioneer Park. There were at least 1000 homes in this air stream, plus some buildings which house many more individuals in apartments that I am unable to estimate. Yet the Rossiter School EPA/DEQ monitor failed to detect it at all. I can assure you that what passed through Reeders Village to my home and onward was truly that bad.

ATTACHMENTS:

IMG_5715.png (screen capture of website air quality information)

IMG_5840.jpeg (screen capture of website air quality information)

IMG_6164.png (screen capture of website air quality information)

IMG_6153.jpeg (screen capture of website air quality information)

IMG_6145.jpeg (screen capture of website air quality information)

IMG_5957.png (screen capture of website air quality information)