

Summary of 2015-2016 Exceptional Events in PM₁₀ Non-attainment areas (NAA) of Montana.

The following dates and locations are being submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency as exceptional events for 2015 and 2016 for PM₁₀. The associated wildfire smoke update for each date is provided as a hyperlink in the date column. For all dates where a wildfire smoke update is available a brief reason is provided for the exceptional event. All of the online documentation is also available in a Word document with additional supporting information. This document will be submitted with the exceptional events final package. Please contact the Montana Department of Environmental Quality at 406-444-3490 if you have any questions or concerns.

Date	Site	24 Hour PM₁₀ µg/m³	Reason
8/14/2015 And PM Update	Thompson Falls	105	Eight fires larger than 100 acres burned in Montana along with numerous other small fires throughout the western part of the state. Smoke was clearly visible on satellite imagery throughout the day. Satellite imagery indicated numerous smoke plumes in northwest Montana and Idaho and widespread smoke over eastern Montana.
8/15/2015 And PM Update	Butte Missoula	100 133	New fires ignited throughout central Idaho and western Montana due to strong winds and frequent lightning after a week of hot, dry weather. Nine new large fires were reported in the Northern Rockies and eight new large fires were reported in the Pacific Northwest. The largest new fire in Montana was the Eustice Fire north of Three Forks. Other large new fires in Montana include the Melton Fire near Dillion, the Scotchmans Gulch Fire near Philipsburg, the Trail Creek Fire near Swan Lake, and the Klatawa Fire near Libby at 156 acres. Fire activity also increased significantly on existing fires in Montana including the Sucker Creek Fire near Lincoln, the Marston Fire near Eureka, and the Weigel Fire near Libby. Fires in Idaho also contributed to the widespread smoke impacts.
8/20/2015 And PM Update	Butte Columbia Falls Kalispell Libby Whitefish Missoula	103 140 125 113 128 101	Satellite imagery showed a river of smoke from eastern Washington moving up into Canada and then down along western Montana in the morning, moving to the east throughout the day. Westerly winds and generally dry conditions caused smoke to impact the region throughout the day.
8/21/2015 And PM Update	Columbia Falls Kalispell Whitefish Missoula	112 103 131 116	Active fires in Washington, Idaho, and Montana continued to cause elevated smoke levels across Montana.

Date	Site	24 Hour PM ₁₀ µg/m ³	Reason
8/23/2015	Columbia Falls	112	Smoke continued to move into western Montana from fire activity in Washington, Idaho, and Montana. Conditions worsened throughout the day.
8/24/2015 And PM Update	Columbia Falls Kalispell Libby Thompson Falls Whitefish Missoula	138 139 180 117 122 104	Prolonged smoke impacts expected due to a large ridge of high pressure over the western U.S. and significant fire activity in Montana and neighboring states.
8/25/2015 And PM Update	Columbia Falls Libby Whitefish Missoula	109 102 106 120	Satellite imagery shows a large amount of smoke over almost all of Montana. This smoke is being trapped under a ridge of high pressure that impacted the area until August 30, 2015. Westerly winds aloft continue to carry smoke into the region from the numerous fires burning in western Montana, Idaho, and eastern Washington.
8/26/2015 And PM Update	Columbia Falls Kalispell Thompson Falls Missoula	112 125 135 104	
8/27/2015 And PM Update	Columbia Falls Kalispell Libby Thompson Falls Whitefish Missoula	136 123 109 122 118 119	
8/28/2015 And PM Update	Butte10 Columbia Falls Kalispell Whitefish Missoula	115 135 133 110 181	
8/29/2015	Butte Columbia Falls Kalispell Libby Thompson Falls Whitefish Missoula	118 138 146 143 143 104 276	
8/30/2016	Thompson Falls	135	