

Ozone – Truckee (Table 18)

The existing fourteen years of data reveals no exceedances of the NAAQS and only one exceedance of the CAAQS. In 1996 we recorded our highest single one-hour value to date in Truckee. As shown in Table 18, this exceedance was due to a significant and singular incursion of smoke from a wildfire northeast of Truckee. Wildfires create significant amounts of hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen. These precursors combined with high temperatures and extended periods of solar radiation have the potential to form high ozone levels in areas that would not normally see such levels. 2005 turned out to be a fairly typical ozone year for Truckee, with the hourly average appearing higher than in previous years because of the absence of data during the low ozone months of November and December. The missing data was the result of an expensive air pump burning out.

Long Term Outlook: Ozone values in Truckee will most likely remain as they have been for the last 9 years, with the possibility of an upward creep as continued growth contributes to the local precursor levels. No doubt we may see the rare exceedance of the NAAQS or CAAQS, most likely due to wildfire smoke incursions or transported pollutants from the BSA or Reno, Nevada.