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Key Points:

- The tracer-tracer correlation method reveals chemical perturbations associated with volcanic aerosols or smoke
- The 1991 Pinatubo eruption and the 2020 Australian wildfire markedly perturbed HCl in the southern midlatitude lower stratosphere
- The Pinatubo eruption had 10 times more aerosol loading than the Australian wildfire, but similar decreases in HCl

Supporting Information:

Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article.

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Contrasting Chlorine Chemistry on Volcanic and Wildfire Aerosols in the Southern Mid-Latitude Lower Stratosphere

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Abstract Volcanic eruptions and wildfires can impact stratospheric chemistry. We apply tracer-tracer correlations to satellite data from Atmospheric Chemistry Experiment—Fourier Transform Spectrometer and the Halogen Occultation Experiment at 68 hPa to consistently compare the chemical impact on HCl after multiple wildfires and volcanic eruptions of different magnitudes. The 2020 Australian New Year (ANY) fire displayed an order of magnitude less stratospheric aerosol extinction than the 1991 Pinatubo eruption, but showed similar large changes in mid-latitude lower stratosphere HCl. While the mid-latitude aerosol loadings from the 2015 Calbuco and 2022 Hunga volcanic eruptions were similar to the ANY fire, little impact on HCl occurred. The 2009 Australian Black Saturday fire and 2021 smoke remaining from 2020 yield small HCl changes, at the edge of the detection method. These observed contrasts across events highlight greater reactivity for smoke versus volcanic aerosols at warm temperatures.

Plain Language Summary An unprecedented change in HCl was observed in the lower stratosphere after the 2020 Australian New Year (ANY) wildfire using satellite records since 2004. In this study, we conduct a consistent analysis of HCl impacts using an additional satellite product with measurements since 1991 to examine effects of the catastrophic 1991 Pinatubo volcanic eruption and smaller eruptions, and compare them to the 2020 ANY fire (and remaining smoke in 2021), as well as the much smaller 2009 Australian Black Saturday (ABS) bushfire. This allows analysis of different types of particles (smoke vs. volcanic) and the extremes of each observed to date. While the Pinatubo eruption displayed 10 times greater aerosol loading in the stratosphere than the ANY fire, these two events led to similar net chemical changes in HCl. In contrast, no significant changes in HCl were observed in the lower stratosphere following the Hunga and Calbuco volcanic eruptions, which displayed similar levels of extinction to ANY. Small effects were observed from ABS fire and in 2021, allowing identification of the lower limit of the amount of smoke affecting HCl. These contrasts between events indicate that the wildfire smoke aerosols must be more reactive insofar as chlorine chemistry is concerned.

1. Introduction

The southern hemisphere stratosphere has been perturbed by major aerosol injection events frequently in the past several years, associated with stratospheric ozone depletion. The April 2015 Calbuco volcanic eruption injected about 0.3 Tg of SO₂ into the stratosphere (Pardini et al., 2018), contributing to a record-large ozone hole in October of that year (Solomon et al., 2016). The 2019–2020 Australian New Year wildfire (ANY) injected about 1 Tg of smoke particles into the stratosphere (Peterson et al., 2021), and was followed by significant perturbations in mid-latitude chemistry (Bernath et al., 2022; Santee et al., 2022; Solomon et al., 2023), and an extended Antarctic ozone hole season (Ansmann et al., 2022; Chipperfield & Bekki, 2024; Ohneiser et al., 2022). The January 2022 Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai (Hunga) underwater volcanic eruption injected around 0.4 Tg of SO₂ (Carn et al., 2022) along with ~150 Tg of H₂O (Millán et al., 2022) into the stratosphere, and led to record low mid-latitude O₃ at some altitudes as well as significant polar O₃ depletion (Santee et al., 2023; X. Wang et al., 2023; Wohltmann et al., 2024; Zhang et al., 2024).

Volcanic eruptions can deplete stratospheric O_3 via various heterogeneous reactions. In the polar region where the temperature can be low, SO_2 from volcanic eruptions increases sulfate aerosols and subsequently can provide more surface area for chlorine to activate from reservoir species (mainly HCl and ClONO₂, or Cly) and deplete O_3 , particularly in cold air at the edge of the polar vortex (Solomon et al., 2016). In the mid-latitude region, temperatures are generally too warm for sulfate to take up HCl efficiently (Hanson & Ravishankara, 1993; Shi et al., 2001). Instead, mid-latitude O_3 depletion after volcanic eruptions is mainly due to N_2O_5 hydrolysis that



reduces NOx, modulates $CIO/CIONO_2$ partitioning, and indirectly depletes O_3 (Solomon et al., 1996). Heterogeneous mid-latitude chemistry also depends on water vapor partial pressure (Solomon, 1999). With a large amount of H₂O emitted from Hunga, several key heterogeneous reactions can also happen more efficiently at warmer temperatures; this effect contributed to the record low mid-latitude O_3 observed in 2022 (Zhang et al., 2024).

What makes wildfire different from volcanic eruptions is that organic aerosol makes up a large portion of the smoke composition (Murphy et al., 2021). The uptake of HCl on organic aerosols is orders of magnitude more efficient than on sulfate aerosols at temperatures warmer than ~200 K (Solomon et al., 2023). The high solubility of HCl on organics at warm temperatures means that chlorine activation is no longer limited to polar winter and spring. N_2O_5 hydrolysis also likely contributed to mid-latitude O_3 depletion after the 2020 ANY fire, but this mechanism alone cannot explain the unprecedented changes observed in Cly in 2020 (Solomon et al., 2022, 2023). More evidence, especially from laboratory studies, is needed to verify the hypothesized reaction rates on different types of aerosols (Chipperfield & Bekki, 2024).

In this paper, we focus on chlorine processing in the southern mid-latitudes during the fall to winter season (March-July). This period follows the Australian summer wildfire season, and displayed unprecedented changes in stratospheric Cly after the ANY fire from Microwave Limb Sounder (MLS, 2004-present) and Atmospheric Chemistry Experiment-Fourier Transform Spectrometer (ACE, 2004-present) satellite data (Bernath et al., 2022; Santee et al., 2022). In an earlier study by P. Wang et al. (2023), we used a tracer-tracer method to derive the chemical impact on Cly from satellite data after the ANY fire. Here we use a similar method to look for stratospheric chemical impacts on HCl after the 2009 Australian Black Saturday (ABS) bushfire. While this was a much smaller wildfire compared to the 2020 ANY fire, several biomass indicators observed from satellite suggest that the wildfire plume indeed reached the lower stratosphere (Glatthor et al., 2013), and injected up to 0.1 Tg of aerosol into the stratosphere (Peterson et al., 2021). We also leverage satellite data from the Halogen Occultation Experiment (HALOE) onboard the Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite (UARS) to examine the changes in HCl after the catastrophic 1991 Pinatubo eruption, which injected up to \sim 19 Tg of SO₂ (Guo et al., 2004). The long composite record from HALOE and ACE spanning more than three decades allows consistent comparison of the chemical impacts of wildfire and volcanic aerosols, for these identified wildfire events that have reached the lower stratosphere, as well as multiple smaller volcanic eruptions (including Calbuco in 2015 and Hunga in 2022), and the 1991 Pinatubo eruption, the largest volcanic eruption in the satellite era.

2. Data and Methods

2.1. ACE and HALOE Satellite Data

ACE version 5.2 (Bernath et al., 2005) and HALOE version 19 (Russell et al., 1993) are used in this study. Both ACE and HALOE are infrared solar occultation instruments, providing vertical profiles at sunset and sunrise. HALOE data are available from 1991 to 2005, and ACE data are available from 2004 to present. In the lower stratosphere, HALOE and ACE agree reasonably well for temperature and multiple trace gases, except for NO₂ (McHugh et al., 2005). Here we present results in mid-latitude, defined as 30–45S. We picked this latitude range because both HALOE and ACE provide similar sampling distributions there, and this region is less affected by the air coming from the polar region than higher latitudes would be. Figures 1a-1c shows mid-latitude monthly averaged temperature, CH₄, HCl, and aerosol extinction, linearly interpolated in log pressure to 68 hPa. In 2004–2005 when measurements are available from both instruments, HALOE and ACE show broadly consistent results.

Aerosol extinction from HALOE is available at four different channels (2.45, 3.4, 3.46, and 5.26 μ m). Data at 2.45 and 5.26 μ m are strongly biased after Pinatubo and are not recommended for scientific use, and 3.4 μ m is also affected slightly by failure to remove NO₂ absorption (Thomason, 2012). ACE aerosol extinction is available at two channels (525 and 1,020 nm). To facilitate direct comparisons between ACE and HALOE, we converted HALOE aerosol extinction from 3.46 μ m to 1,020 nm. Following Thomason (2012), we applied two sets of scaling factors to HALOE aerosol extinction (0.2 ± 0.05 before 1997 and 0.375 ± 0.125 after 1997) derived from the HALOE and Stratospheric Aerosol and Gas Experiment (SAGE) II 3.46 μ m to 1,020 nm ratios (the spreads in the scaling factors are represented as gray shadings in Figure 1d). This method appears to work well and does not require prior assumptions on the particle size distribution. The 1,020 nm aerosol extinction derived from HALOE in this way and the direct retrieval from ACE show consistent results in the overlap period during 2004–2005 and are consistent with the zonal mean 1,020 nm aerosol extinction product from the Global Space-based



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Figure 1. Time series for monthly mean (a) temperature, (b) CH_4 , (c) HCl, and (d) aerosol extinction in 1992–2005 (from the Halogen Occultation Experiment [HALOE]) and 2004–2023 (from Atmospheric Chemistry Experiment [ACE]) between 30 and 45S at 68 hPa. The gray shading in aerosol extinction during the HALOE period represents uncertainty when converting aerosol extinction from 3.45 μ m to 1,020 nm (discussed in Section 2.1 in detail). The black dashed line in panel (d) shows 1,020 nm aerosol extinction at 18.5 km from Global Space-based Stratospheric Aerosol Climatology (GloSSAC) averaged from a similar latitude range.

Stratospheric Aerosol Climatology (GloSSAC) version 2.21 (NASA/LARC/SD/ASDC, 2023) averaged for a similar latitude range at 18.5 km (dashed black line in Figure 1d).

2.2. Tracer-Tracer Correlation Method

Both ACE (using high resolution infrared absorption in solar occultation) and HALOE (using a lower-resolution infrared emission band) measure HCl, aerosol extinction, and several other trace gases simultaneously, allowing a quantitative estimate of the change in HCl associated with aerosol abundances at individual satellite overpasses. However, the observed mixing ratio of HCl reflects both dynamic and chemical influences. Here we use CH_4 as a dynamical tracer observed by both instruments and exploit the HCl-CH₄ correlation in the mid-latitude during fall/early winter season (March-July) to search for chemical impacts. Individual points in Figure 2 represent colocated CH_4 and HCl satellite measurements that are linearly detrended (discussed later). Following P. Wang et al. (2023), we first construct a "no-chemistry" baseline based on the March CH_4 -HCl relationship composite for all the background years without major wildfires or volcanic eruptions. For HALOE data, this baseline covers 1997-2005 and for ACE data, it spans 2004-2019 (excluding 2009 and 2015-2016), shown as thick blue and orange lines in Figure 2, respectively. The shaded areas in Figure 2 represent the full range of the CH_4 -HCl relationship derived from individual background years, capturing interannual variability, which is a key source of baseline uncertainty (P. Wang et al., 2023). Overall, the CH_4 -HCl relationships from both satellites are consistent with each other. We define Δ HCl as the departure of HCl in individual data points from the "no-chemistry" baseline, which largely describes the net chemical change in HCl. In the absence of chemical changes, a plot of HCl versus CH_4 should follow a straight line, with dynamical changes moving along but not departing from the line (this is more clearly shown in the ACE data due to its high precision).

The inactive tracer used in this study to derive Δ HCl is CH₄. Both HCl and CH₄ from HALOE use gas filter radiometry, so the retrievals are generally insensitive to high aerosol loading after the Pinatubo eruption (Hervig et al., 1995). HALOE HCl and CH₄ have previously been used in tracer-tracer analysis after Pinatubo given that the relative error between these tracers is less than 5%, although the first half of 1992 could still be affected by the extreme aerosol loading (Dessler et al., 1997). For consistency, we also use CH₄ as the inactive tracer in HALOE ACE data in this study. CH₄ and HCl come from different emission sources, and different trends may bias Δ HCl calculation, especially in such a three-decade-long satellite record. We therefore linearly detrended CH₄ and HCl fitted from 1997 to 2005 in HALOE and 2004–2018 in ACE. We considered the use of HF as an inactive tracer in



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Figure 2. Tracer-tracer scatter plots between detrended CH_4 (*x*-axis) and detrended HCl (*y*-axis) color coded by aerosol extinction in the Halogen Occultation Experiment (HALOE) and Atmospheric Chemistry Experiment (ACE) at 30–45S at 68 hPa. Only the Pinatubo years (1992–1994) and Australian New Year (ANY) years (2020–2021) are identified by specific markers as they show the most significant changes during each satellite mission (Figure S4 in Supporting Information S1 shows these events in separate panels to avoid overlapping points). Shadings indicate a full range of interannual variability (discussed in detail in Section 2.2) for HALOE (in blue) and for ACE (in orange). Note that there is no data coverage at the chosen latitude in May from ACE.

this analysis, although the high aerosol loads of Pinatubo may influence the HALOE retrieval (Thomason, 2012). Figure S1 in Supporting Information S1 compares Δ HCl in the ACE record calculated from CH₄ and from HF, which is much more inert than CH₄ in the lower stratosphere. For the background years, most of the data are clustered around 0, and for years after major volcanic eruptions and wildfires, the two inactive tracers resulted in similar Δ HCl. Overall, CH₄-derived Δ HCl has a low bias by 0.01 ppb compared to HF-derived Δ HCl.

3. Results

Figure 3 shows satellite-derived mid-latitude Δ HCl at 68 hPa as a function of the 1,020 nm aerosol extinction in the years after the Pinatubo, Calbuco, Hunga volcanic eruptions, and the ABS and the ANY fires (labeled by different colors and markers shown in the figure legend). The gray dots are for example, background years in 2000 (from HALOE) and the black dots are for the background year 2012 (from ACE), as these 2 years do not have known major volcanic eruptions or large wildfires. The larger background Δ HCl spread in 2000 compared to 2012 can be partially due to lower precision in HALOE compared to ACE. Since HCl becomes much more soluble on volcanic aerosols at temperatures colder than ~195 K (Hanson & Ravishankara, 1993; Shi et al., 2001; Solomon et al., 2023), to prevent misinterpreting the temperature for chlorine processing on different aerosol types after volcanic eruptions and wildfires, Δ HCl in Figure 3 is separated into five temperature regimes (\leq 195 K, 195–200 K, 200–205 K, 205–210 K, and >210 K) based on the air parcel's recent minimum temperature exposure (instead of using the temperatures directly observed at the time of the satellite overpasses). Following P. Wang et al. (2023), at each satellite overpass, we run a 5-day back trajectory calculation using Lagranto (Lagrangian Analysis Tool; Sprenger & Wernli, 2015) driven by the ERA5 (fifth generation atmospheric reanalysis product from the European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts; Herbach et al., 2020) meteorology. Figure S2 in



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Figure 3. Δ HCl (negative values suggest a net loss in HCl due to chemistry) in 30–45S at 68 hPa as a function of aerosol extinction at individual satellite overpass. Results are grouped in panels showing different temperature ranges (based on 5-day minimum temperatures from the back trajectory calculation for each point, a similar figure but using satellite observed temperature is shown in Figure S2 in Supporting Information S1). Two background years, and consecutive years after major volcanic eruptions and the wildfires are highlighted with different markers and colors. The blue and orange shadings surround zero line indicate the full range of interannual variability during the Halogen Occultation Experiment and Atmospheric Chemistry Experiment periods, respectively.

Supporting Information S1 is comparable to Figure 3 but instead uses the satellite-observed temperature directly. Generally, because the latitude range we choose is far away from the polar region, most of the data points are not recently exposed to substantially colder temperatures, and can well represent warm mid-latitude conditions.

The main focus here is on the strong negative values of Δ HCl, indicating efficient uptake of HCl on particles, especially at temperatures warmer than 200 K when polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs) are very unlikely to occur (McCormick et al., 1982). Using the ACE record from 2004 to 2023, aerosol extinction after the Calbuco and Hunga volcanic eruptions reached a similar (or even higher) value to that of the ANY fire, which is about an order of magnitude higher than background conditions. However, only the two consecutive years in this record after the ANY fire show a noticeable HCl decrease due to chemistry, where Δ HCl falls outside the uncertainty range (characterized by the full range of interannual variability in background years during ACE record, represented as the orange shading in Figure 3). This is consistent with Solomon et al. (2023), who suggested that the organic aerosols from wildfires are orders of magnitude more efficient in uptaking HCl compared to volcanic aerosols under warm mid-latitude temperatures. We can only find a similar degree of change in HCl after the 1991 Pinatubo eruption. However, the aerosol extinction in 1992 reached $\sim 10^{-2}$ km⁻¹, which is more than one order of magnitude higher than the ANY fire. Given significantly larger aerosol amounts, the decrease in HCl after the Pinatubo eruption is mainly due to enhanced N₂O₅ hydrolysis and therefore elevated HOx depleting HCl (Kinnison et al., 1994). The 2009 ABS fire led to a small enhancement in aerosol extinction that is close to 2021 conditions. There are a few data points in 2009 that displayed Δ HCl lower than the ACE uncertainty range (yellow triangles in Figure 3). Figure S3 in Supporting Information S1 shows the tracer-tracer scatter plot in ACE that highlights the ABS fire color-coded by CO, which is an indicator for biomass burning. The low Δ HCl points





Figure 4. Δ HCl in 30–45S at 68 hPa from 1992 to 2023 binned by aerosol extinction (at every 5×10^{-5} km⁻¹, each bin is averaged by at least 3 data points). The black line shows the averaged net chemical impact on HCl in background and volcanic eruption years. The red lines show the 2 consecutive years after the Australian New Year fire (solid line for 2020, dashed line for 2021). The yellow line shows the 2009 Australian Black Saturday fire. Color shadings indicate ±1 standard deviation from the mean for data averaged in each aerosol extinction bin.

in 2009 are mainly in March, and are associated with high CO concentrations, suggestive of some role for wildfire chemistry. However, this chemical impact is small, barely outside the range of other years, and did not last long; the Δ HCl in 2009 falls within the uncertainty range quickly after March.

Hunga volcanic aerosols were accompanied by significant H₂O injection and have higher extinction than Calbuco and the ANY fire (Zhu et al., 2022). Interestingly, even though 2022-2023 after the Hunga eruption and 1994 (3 years after the Pinatubo eruption) show comparable amounts of aerosol extinction at 68 hPa, less Δ HCl was found after the Hunga eruption. Although it is worth noting that the altitude associated with the largest change in aerosol extinction and HCl after the Hunga eruption is at a higher altitude (X. Wang et al., 2023; Wilmouth et al., 2023). A caveat of considering aerosol extinction alone for indications of heterogeneous reaction is that particle size distribution is overlooked. Further, different types of aerosols may exhibit different optical properties, affecting extinction values (Ohneiser et al., 2022). Particle diameter after the Hunga eruption reached ~0.56 µm (Asher et al., 2023), just at the peak of scattering efficiency (Li et al., 2024; Murphy et al., 2021); this event therefore resulted in higher aerosol extinction given relatively lower mass of aerosols. On the contrary, particles after the Pinatubo eruption reached a diameter larger than 0.7 µm (Wilson et al., 2008), decreasing their scattering efficiency. Therefore, the mass of aerosols in 1994 may be much higher than 2022-2023, despite displaying a similar level of aerosol extinction. Likewise, the mean diameter after the ANY fire was

smaller compared to that of Hunga (Ansmann et al., 2021), suggesting given similar aerosol extinctions that the mass of ANY aerosols is also larger than Hunga. Particle sizes are also important in determining the decay time of these aerosols in the stratosphere, contributing to how long these aerosols can affect stratospheric chemistry over time (Ohneiser et al., 2022).

Figure 4 averages the net chemical impact on HCl in various aerosol extinction bins for the wildfire years (which contain more organic aerosols, with red lines showing the ANY fire, and yellow lines for the ABS fire) and all other years in 1992–2023 (including volcano and background years, which mainly contain inorganic sulfates). We composite all the satellite data in 30–45S (without filtering out data points with low temperatures) because the latitude range we choose here is equatorward enough to prevent significant PSC-induced Cl activation (there are only a few points that had 5-day minimum temperature below 195 K based on the back trajectory calculation in Figure 3).

After the catastrophic 1991 Pinatubo eruption, it took about 4 years for aerosol extinctions to decay to a level similar to the ANY fire. The magnitude of Δ HCl also shows a consistent decay associated with the decay in aerosol extinction after Pinatubo. The net chemical impact on HCl from the Pinatubo eruption vanishes in 1995 when the average aerosol extinction reaches $\sim 5 \times 10^{-4}$ km⁻¹. For the Calbuco eruption and background years, when the aerosol extinctions were smaller than 5×10^{-4} km⁻¹, insignificant changes in Δ HCl were observed. The Hunga eruption boosted the aerosol extinction to $\sim 10^{-3}$ km⁻¹, but has only a minor impact on Δ HCl, likely due to less surface area compared to Pinatubo aerosols; the Δ HCl curve is hence close to zero at $\sim 10^{-3}$ km⁻¹. Along the Δ HCl versus aerosol extinction curve, the net chemical change in HCl during wildfire year in 2020 is a clear outlier compared to the background and volcanic years. In 2021, wildfire aerosols are transported further poleward, and the chemical impact at 30–45S becomes smaller (although there is still significant Cl activation in 2021 at 40–55S and 65–90S shown in P. Wang et al. (2023)). This difference in HCl uptake is also broadly consistent with the difference in ozone loss after the ANY fire and the Calbuco and Pinatubo eruptions (Ansmann et al., 2022). The 2009 ABS fire, due to its small magnitude (only a-tenth of the stratospheric aerosol loading compared to the ANY fire), may have led to a small decrease in the mean Δ HCl but it is close to the uncertainty range. At the latitude range we chose, both 2009 and 2021 have similar aerosol extinction and display a similar impact on Δ HCl that is on the lower end of the background/volcano range. The two events suggest that significant mid-latitude wildfire impacts on HCl outside of the range of variability at these latitudes would require extinction levels of about $\sim a \text{ few} \times 10^{-4} \text{ km}^{-1}$ or larger.

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4. Conclusions

The 2020 ANY fire, the largest wildfire since the satellite era, injected a large amount of aerosol into the lower stratosphere and resulted in an unprecedented change in HCl and $CIONO_2$ relative to MLS and ACE records from 2004 to 2023. In an earlier study from P. Wang et al. (2023), we quantified the net chemical impact on HCl after the ANY fire from satellite data using the tracer-tracer method. Here, we use this method to consistently combine satellite observations from ACE (2004–2023) and HALOE (1992–2005), and thereby examine the net chemical impacts in HCl after another smaller wildfire in 2009 (Black Saturday bushfire) as well as the ANY fire as compared to a series of volcanic eruptions of different sizes—from the recent 2015 Calbuco and 2022 Hunga eruption to the catastrophic 1991 Pinatubo eruption.

The approach we used allows consistent identification of volcanic impacts on mid-latitude HCl in the lower stratosphere for several years after Pinatubo. Direct satellite evidence suggests a similar degree of net HCl decrease (after removing the dynamical impacts) after the ANY fire and the Pinatubo eruption at 68 hPa, despite Pinatubo having an order of magnitude higher aerosol extinction than the ANY fire. The decrease in mid-latitude HCl after the Pinatubo eruption is thought to be due to enhanced gas phase reaction with OH (given significant reductions in NOx through N_2O_5 hydrolysis and therefore HOx enhancement; Kinnison et al., 1994). However, wildfires containing a significant portion of organic aerosols (Murphy et al., 2021) can dissolve HCl more efficiently at warm temperatures (Solomon et al., 2023), facilitating the reaction between ClONO₂ and HCl while suppressing ClONO₂ hydrolysis. Therefore, only a relatively small amount of wildfire aerosols in the stratosphere might cause chemical changes in HCl. The unprecedented change in chlorine species after the 2020 ANY fire has increased attention on the impact of wildfires in the stratosphere. Earlier wildfires with smaller magnitudes could also affect stratospheric chlorine activation but may have been overlooked. Here we see some evidence suggesting that the much smaller 2009 ABS bushfire may have impacted the stratospheric chlorine chemistry in the southern hemisphere mid-latitude lower stratosphere, but only at the edge of variability. We used the 2009 wildfire event and the decay of the 2020 wildfire smoke to the year 2021 to suggest that significant mid-latitude wildfire impacts on HCl outside the range of variability at the latitudes explored here would require extinction levels higher than these events, or above about $\sim a \text{ few} \times 10^{-4} \text{ km}^{-1}$. Applying the method developed here to a wider range of altitudes, latitudes, and events in both hemispheres is a topic for future work.

Data Availability Statement

HALOE and ACE-FTS data are freely available at https://haloe.gats-inc.com/home/index.php and http://www. ace.uwaterloo.ca, respectively. Data and code used in this manuscript are available on Zenodo at https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13387165 (P. Wang, 2024).

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