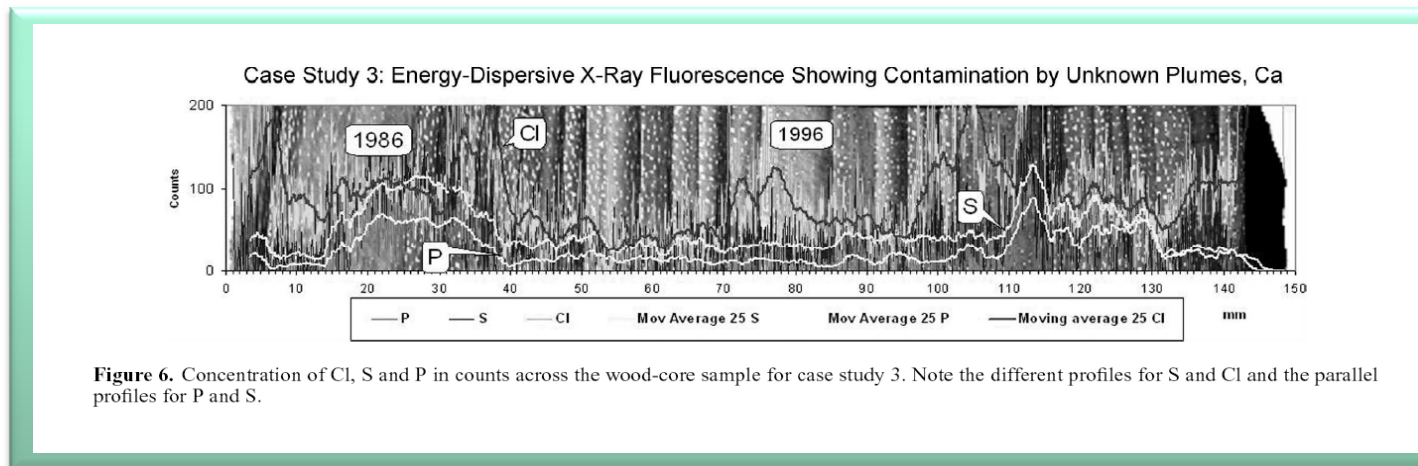


Wood as record in environmental forensics



Trees are now used as archives for studying the spread and impact of soil and groundwater contaminations. Due to the ability of trees to store in the tree-rings a record of the contaminant history, the application of dendro-ecology and dendrochemistry has become a tool for characterization of contaminant release, so called Environmental Forensics. J. C. Balouet et. al. demonstrated in a recent paper how high resolution radiography and XRF scanning of tree cores can be used for Environmental Forensic applications. The ability to study Environmental release in a proxy which contains precise time-markers opens new possibilities to study contaminant dynamics, but do also provide a strong legal argument when such forensic data are presented in courtrooms.

Read more:

J.C. Balouet, G. Oudijk, K. T. Smith, I. Petrisor, H Grudd and B. Stocklassa: applied Dendroecology and Environmental Forensics. Characterization and Age dating environmental Release: fundamentals and case Studies. *Environmental Forensics*, 8:1-17, 2007