



Pima County Department of Environmental Quality
150 W. Congress Street
Tucson, AZ 85701
(520) 740-3340
www.deq.pima.gov

Got Dust? Keep it Down!

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The Dirt on Dust

The *Dirt on Dust* newsletter provides information about regulations and airborne dust control methods to protect the health of our community and keep Pima County in compliance with national air quality standards. Please share this information with your co-workers and/or employees in your company newsletters, safety meetings, payroll enclosures or e-mail distribution for company-wide awareness of this very important topic.

New Multiple Activity Permit for a Single Site

To benefit both permit holders and PDEQ administrative efforts, PDEQ is proposing revisions to air quality regulations in Title 17 of the Pima County Code. The proposed revisions amend Chapter 17.12.470 regarding Activity Permits and Table 17.12.540 – Activity Permit Fee Schedule. The Activity Permit rule amendments will allow sources to obtain a single permit that authorizes multiple activities per project site rather than obtaining numerous permits for the same site.

Single activity permits will still be available and may cover a single dust producing activity per site. For example it may include landstripping, trenching, *or* road construction. One multi-activity permit will include all dust producing activities you are engaging in on a single project site, perhaps including landstripping, trenching, *and* road construction.

The multi-activity permit is expected to benefit you by saving time and effort that would otherwise be spent in obtaining additional air quality activity permits for the variety of dust-producing activities on one site.

Contact PDEQ to be Part of the Stakeholder Group

You are invited to attend and participate in discussions of the proposed changes to the Activity Permit rules as a stakeholder. If you would like to be included on our list of interested stakeholders and receive mailings on this rulemaking, please contact Jessica O'Brien at Jessica.O'Brien@deq.pima.gov or 740-3978. Meetings will be held this fall, beginning in September.

As always, a reminder: Keeping dust down is not only necessary to avoid Pima County ordinance violations, but is important for the health of equipment operators and that of our community, and to keep Pima County in "Attainment" status of national air quality health standards. Do your part to help Keep Dust Down.

Please Contact Us to Save Taxpayer \$\$ or for More Info

- Save Taxpayer Money: Receive articles by e-mail**
Send us your e-mail address for electronic distribution (saves time, paper, and postage)
- Schedule a free presentation**
- Request more information on health effects, regulations, control methods**
- Provide feedback on newsletter**
- Remove yourself from distribution list**



PDEQ, 150 W. Congress St, Tucson, AZ 85701 • karen.wilhelmsen@deq.pima.gov • 740-3345

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Airborne Dust is Particulate Matter Pollution

Particulate Matter is a major air pollutant in Pima County that is of great concern due to its serious health effects. Title 17 of the Pima County Code states that any permittee or person must take reasonable precautions to prevent excessive amounts of particulate matter from becoming airborne.

Construction activity is one source of airborne dust. Any type of earthmoving, hauling, and driving activity, as well as storage piles and unstabilized soil surfaces can contribute to unhealthy levels of particulates. Contractors, sub-contractors, developers, and construction workers need to take reasonable action to control airborne dust on work sites.

Air Quality Activity Permits

Are no longer available at
Development Services.

You can get them from PDEQ

In-Person: 150 W. Congress St.
Monday – Friday 8AM to 5PM

On-Line Application Form:
www.deq.pima.gov

Fax: 520-882-7709
(Processed when payment received.)

**Check, Cash, or
Deferred Accounts Only**

How Does Airborne Dust Affect Human Health?

Children, the elderly, and people with respiratory or heart disease are most at risk from breathing airborne dust. Healthy people are at risk as well, especially outdoor workers and exercisers. It is estimated that about 200 people in the Metropolitan Tucson area will die this year from breathing particulates. Over 60,000 people throughout the U.S. are expected to die prematurely from this as well.

Airborne dust can cause:

- Eye, nose, and throat irritations
- Reduced lung function
- Chest pain and heart attacks
- Increased hospitalizations
- Stroke
- Difficulty breathing
- Asthma attacks
- Weakened immune system
- Increased absences from work and school
- Premature death (by 1-8 years)

Please, take reasonable precautions to Keep Dust Down!