



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!

June 2005, Volume 1, Issue 1

The Dirt on Dust

Welcome to the first PDEQ newsletter for the construction industry about airborne particulate (dust) issues. In February 2005, PDEQ surveyed a group of contractors to find out if there was interest for such a newsletter. We had positive results and plan on providing information several times a year on Pima County airborne dust regulations, control methods, storm water, background, health, general air quality, or compliance issues.

Please share this information with your co-workers and/or employees in your company newsletters, safety meetings, payroll enclosures, or e-mail distribution list for company-wide awareness of this very important topic. We welcome your feedback on this and subsequent issues.

Current Enforcement Actions: Operating Without a Permit

From January thru April 2005, 63%, or 15 of 23, of the enforcement actions issued for dust control were for operating without an Air Quality Activity Permit. Many contractors let their original activity permits expire and failed to renew, others did not know they needed one. Except as provided in Title 17, Section 12.540 of Pima County Ordinances, activity permits are needed with earthmoving, trenching, road construction, and blasting activities.

Activity permits are valid for ONE YEAR from the date of issuance. A copy of the permit should be available on site. If the general contractor, or other contractor is responsible for the permit, ask for a copy of it prior to commencing activity, to verify it was issued and is current.

Obtain Air Quality Activity Permits At:

- **Pima County Dept. of Environmental Quality**
 - Find the permit application form at PDEQ's website www.deq.pima.gov/pdf/activities.pdf
 - Walk-in or mail completed application form with check 150 W. Congress St., Tucson, AZ 85701
 - Deferred Accounts: Open a pre-paid account for the amount you estimate your monthly permit fees will cost. Fax (882-7709) or mail a completed application form per project. Call PDEQ at 740-3957 to learn more.
- **Pima County Development Services**
201 N. Stone Ave., Tucson, AZ 85701

Five Days

Remember to Notify PDEQ within five working days of when you **START and COMPLETE** projects.

Call **243-4444** when you start activities. Fax completion form to **882-7709** after completion of a project. Find the form on-line at <http://www.deq.pima.gov/pdf/activities/CopleteNotice.pdf>.

Please Contact Us

- 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**
- Let us know how you are using this information**
- Remove yourself from distribution list**

Please do this

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



150 W. Congress Street
Tucson, AZ 85701
(520) 740-3340
www.deq.pima.gov

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
TUCSON, AZ
PERMIT NO. 108

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Airborne Dust is Particulate Matter Pollution

Enclosed is information to share with co-workers and employees in your company newsletter, safety meetings, payroll enclosures, or e-mail distribution list for company-wide awareness regarding airborne dust. Please pass this information on appropriately.

Particulate Matter is a major air pollutant in Pima County that is of great concern due to the serious health effects, and the potential for becoming a “Non-Attainment” area for this pollutant. Construction activity is one source of airborne dust. Contractors and construction workers need to take action to control airborne dust on work sites.

FREE Workshop on Diesel Emissions Reduction Strategies

June 29, 8:30AM - 5:00PM
Downtown Tucson
Main Library

Call or e-mail for more info,
RSVP by June 20

Susan McDowell
U.S. EPA Region 9
415-947-4188
mcdowell.susan@epa.gov

How Does Airborne Dust Affect Human Health?

Children, the elderly, and people with respiratory or heart disease are most at risk from airborne dust. Healthy people are at risk as well, especially outdoor workers and exercisers. 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!