



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.

Disturbed Vacant and Open Areas

A significant source of airborne dust is disturbed land, and PDEQ is increasing education/outreach and compliance efforts to identify and inspect these sources. Disturbed lands can be vacant or open spaces including road shoulders, turn-around points, unpaved overflow parking lots, construction sites sitting for the next phase of development, horse corrals and arenas, and off-road vehicle areas on private or public lands.

The outreach program is working towards widespread community education via a new display for local public events, a memo updating stakeholders on the program, media exposure, mailings to homeowners and horse associations, letters to businesses that may have unpaved overflow parking lots such as religious organizations and gas stations, and writing articles for local newsletters.

Compliance efforts to control airborne dust on disturbed lands will increase within the next several months. In addition to responding to complaints, dust inspectors will increase surveillance efforts on disturbed lands. With these increased efforts, PDEQ hopes to address a significant source of airborne dust effectively, and keep particulate levels below national standards for clean air and a healthy community.

What can you do to keep dust down on open and vacant areas?

- Assure that the site is stabilized after work has been completed by applying an appropriate dust suppressant, ground cover, or other effective method;
- Avoid using unpaved lots for equipment or employee vehicle parking or turn-around points;
- Avoid using vacant lots to store construction equipment or storage piles;
- Avoid grubbing the land if it is going to sit for more than a month; and
- Call 740-3340 or click on www.deq.pima.gov/complaints/compform.html if you see excessive amounts of dust becoming airborne off a lot.

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.

FREE "Smoke School"

**September 2006
Kino Community Center,
Room 103**

Learn EPA Method 9 and how to
read opacity of dust plumes.

**Contact Fred Ellis
Arizona Department of
Environmental Quality
800.234.5677x4851
ellis.fred@ev.state.as.us
www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/
compliance/smoke.html**

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!