

Dust Control Issues

What is Particulate Matter?

Particulate Matter (PM) is one of the most significant air pollutants in Pima County. PM is made up of tiny particles (a fraction of the thickness of a human hair) that float in the air we breathe. Toxic and cancer-causing chemicals can attach themselves to PM. The fine particles can pass through your body's defense system, travel into the deepest parts of your lungs, and cause damage.

What can Particulate Matter cause?

- Breathing difficulties
- Respiratory pain
- Reduced lung function
- Weakened immune systems
- Increased severity of acute bronchitis, pneumonia, asthma, and emphysema
- Heart attacks
- Premature death (1-8 years)

PM also reduces visibility which can be hazardous while driving, and interferes with beautiful views.

What are major sources of Particulate Matter?

- Disturbed vacant or open lands
- Construction and mining activity
- Unpaved parking lots
- Industrial sources
- Off-road vehicle activity
- Unpaved roads
- Paved roads
- Diesel exhaust

What happens if I don't control dust from my property?

As the land owner, you are responsible for airborne dust on your land, even if *YOU* personally may not be creating it. If you do not control dust:

- Pima County Department of Environmental Quality can issue violations.
- The Pima County Sheriff and Tucson Police Departments can issue notices to appear in court.
- Continued use of the property and subsequent citizen complaints can result in escalated enforcement action being taken, including fines.

In addition, Pima County violated the Environmental Protection Agency's national PM health standards in 1999. Currently, we are maintaining the air quality standards under new Pima County rules and regulations. If we do not control airborne PM, we will have more stringent federal rules, more costly fines, and may possibly lose federal monies for transportation projects.

NOTICE

NO TRESPASSING
ON THIS PROPERTY
UNDER PENALTY
OF THE LAW

The Following Actions May Help Control Dust on Your Land:

- Prevent motor vehicle trespassing.
Install:
 - barriers
 - curbs
 - posts
 - trees
 - fences
 - gates
 - shrubs
 - "No Trespassing" signs
- Report trespassers to the Pima County Sheriff or Tucson Police Department.
- Use windbreaks like fences or trees.
- Plant native vegetation or ground cover such as grass, shrubs, trees, or vines.
- Use water, dust suppressants, or gravel effectively.

Take Action Now!

Avoid Fines Later.