

Got Dust? Keep it Down!

Haul Companies are Required to Control Airborne Dust

Airborne Dust is Particulate Matter Pollution

Haul companies are subject to the rules and regulations in Title 17 of the Pima County Code. Section 17.16.090 states, “No person shall cause, suffer, allow or permit transportation of materials likely to give rise to airborne dust without taking reasonable precautions, such as wetting, applying dust suppressants, or covering the load, to prevent particulate matter from becoming airborne. Earth or other material that is deposited by trucking or earth moving equipment shall be removed from paved streets by the person responsible for such deposits.”

Particulate Matter (PM) is simply airborne dust. It consists of microscopic solid particles or liquid droplets that become airborne from many types of sources, including hauling activities. PM is harmful to human health, is a public nuisance, and is a regulated pollutant that must be minimized.

Haul Vehicles Can Kick Up Dust From:

- The movement of vehicles on haul roads or construction sites;
- Accumulation of material on tires with subsequent relocation of material on roads (trackout);
- Loading and dumping operations; and
- Materials blowing off loads.

Airborne Dust is Hazardous to Human Health

Airborne dust (Particulate Matter) affects children, the elderly, people with existing heart and respiratory disease, as well as healthy individuals – especially outdoor exercisers. It can cause:

- Reduced lung function;
- Aggravated heart and respiratory disease;
- Irritations to the nose, throat, and ear canal;
- Chronic bronchitis;
- Difficulty breathing;
- Severe chest pains (including heart attacks);
- Weakened immune system; and even
- Premature death (1-8 years).

Haulers Must Use Reasonable Control Methods to Reduce Airborne Dust

Haul companies are responsible for the dust they create. Several options to reduce airborne dust include:

- Contacting the contractor prior to servicing to verify that reasonable precautions are in place to reduce airborne dust on their sites, such as effectively wetting down haul roads, saturating storage piles to the depth materials will be removed, and controlling/removing track out;
- Reducing speed on dirt roads;
- Utilizing gravel pads or grizzlies to reduce track out;
- Dumping loads closer to haul vehicles or stockpiles, and water while dumping if necessary;
- Making sure that loads are below the freeboard;
- Tarping or wetting haul loads to eliminate materials from blowing off; and
- Locating haul roads as far as possible from existing housing.

Questions? Call or Click:

Pima County Department of Environmental Quality

33 North Stone Avenue, Suite 700 • Tucson, AZ 85701 • Phone: 520.243-7400 • Fax: 520.838.7432
www.deq.pima.gov/air/FugitiveDustProgram.htm • www.deq.pima.gov • www.AirInfoNow.org