



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!

September 2005, Volume 2, Issue 1

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.

Current Enforcement Actions: Paved Road Trackout

From January through July 2005, 11%, or four of 38, of the enforcement actions issued for dust control were for paved road trackout. Whether the rainy season is creating a muddy havoc, or your diligent efforts in watering to keep dust down are a little overzealous, too much unmanaged mud on your job site leads to too much mud on construction or employee vehicle tires. Mud or dirt tracked onto paved roadway is then driven over by local traffic. With each vehicle pass, the dirt not only can get kicked up into the air, but the dirt particles are continually broken into smaller and smaller sizes. When breathed in, smaller size particles can travel to the deepest part of the lungs, potentially causing significant damage to those who breathe them.

Remember, per Title 17 of the Pima County Code, you must take reasonable precautions to keep dust down, and within property boundary lines. The best way to control trackout is to prevent it entirely. Suggested measures to prevent trackout include:

- Designate a single site entrance and exit.
- Use wheel washers at vehicle exits.
- Install a gravel pad or grizzly to knock mud off tires upon exiting.
- Cover haul vehicles to keep debris from falling off load.
- Sweep roadways as soil piles up, or flush with water if appropriate.
- If using a street cleaning vehicle, use water spray bars or vacuum collection systems, and remove the majority of soil or dirt from paved street prior to using the sweeper.
- Apply water or other dust suppressants.

This is your opportunity to help protect public health, your health, and keep Pima County in compliance with national air quality regulations.

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/folder/CopleteNotice.pdf>.

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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 being designated a “Non-Attainment” area for this pollutant. Construction activity is one source of airborne dust. Contractors, sub-contractors, developers, and construction workers need to take action to control airborne dust on work sites.

FREE “Smoke School”

September 28 & 29
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 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. Tens of thousands of 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!