

Attention Land Owners

As an owner of vacant or open land, you must take action to keep dust (Particulate Matter) from becoming airborne on your property.

How does dust on my land become airborne?

The topsoil on your property may become disturbed by trespassing motor vehicles, construction activity, or discing or blading your land.

The desert is naturally dusty. What's the problem?

If left alone, the soils of undisturbed desert land naturally bind together forming a crust. This crust resists wind and helps prevent dust from becoming airborne. When disturbed, small particles get into the air during high wind events and create problems with human health and the environment.

Title 17 of the Pima County Code

Article III, Section 17.16.080 states in part:

"No person shall allow an urban or suburban open area to be used without taking reasonable precautions to limit excessive amounts of particulate matter from becoming airborne."

What are dust suppressants?

There are many types of dust suppressants, or palliatives, available from companies throughout the U.S. Basic categories of suppressants include: water, water absorbing products, petroleum based products, organic non-petroleum based products, electrochemical products, polymer products, and clay additive products.

Contact PDEQ for more information on product selection and manufacturers.



For Pima County Dust Rules, Complaints, or Air Information:

Pima County Department of Environmental Quality

33 N. Stone Ave, Suite 700
Tucson, AZ 85701

520.724.7400 • Fax: 520.838.7432

www.deq.pima.gov

www.AirInfoNow.org

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Dust Control on Open and Vacant Lands

Land Owners
Are Required to Control
Airborne Particulates

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.