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ADEQ Issues High Pollution Advisory for Particulate Matter for Thursday, Nov. 8

PHOENIX (Nov. 7, 2007) - The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has issued a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for Thursday, Nov. 8 for the Phoenix metropolitan area because of forecast weather conditions which are expected to generate levels of coarse Particulate Matter 10 (PM10) or dust that could exceed unhealthy levels.

The HPA is being issued because continuing stagnant weather conditions, including a temperature inversion and relatively light winds, may result in concentrations of coarse particles that approach unhealthy levels Thursday.

“This is the first High Pollution Advisory for PM10 that we have issued this fall,” ADEQ Director Steve Owens said. “We urge Valley residents to take steps to help reduce particulate matter pollution, as well as reduce their exposure to the pollution.”

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities on Thursday and suggests that the general public limit outdoor activity throughout the day. Employers participating in the Valley's Trip Reduction Program should implement their pollution reduction action plans and all Valley residents should reduce particulate matter-producing emissions by taking the following steps:

- Car pool, use mass transit, telecommute and/or reduce driving.
- Avoid using gas-powered lawn and garden equipment.
- Avoid activities that generate dust, such as driving on dirt roads.
- Stabilize loose soils.
- Eliminate fireplace and wood stove use.

PM10 refers to particles that are 10 micrometers in diameter or smaller. Once inhaled, these particles can affect the heart and lungs and cause serious health effects, including increased respiratory symptoms, irritation of the airways, coughing, difficulty breathing, decreased lung function, aggravated asthma, development of chronic bronchitis, irregular heartbeat, nonfatal heart attacks, and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

HPA
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Daily air quality forecasts are on ADEQ's Web site at www.azdeq.gov/enviro/air/ozone/ensemble.pdf or by calling (602) 771-2367. Those interested in receiving the air quality forecast via email can subscribe to our forecast list at www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html.