



Maricopa County  
Air Quality Department



## HIGH POLLUTION ADVISORY

[Maricopa County] November 3, 2011 — The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for coarse particulate matter (PM-10) effective Friday, November 4, 2011.

This HPA is being issued due to forecasted strong winds with gusts up to 50 miles-an-hour in some areas. Air quality forecasters say a cold front is expected to sweep across the region on Friday with strong winds developing mid-morning. Blowing dust is likely to occur across a large portion of the state including Maricopa County.

“While we can’t control the wind, there are some steps we can take to try and keep this from becoming a significant pollution event,” states Air Quality Department Director Bill Wiley. “Please consider stabilizing loose dirt on any open lots or fields. Minimize off-road driving or driving on dirt roads. Then, when the HPA is in effect, take care and reduce your outdoor activity.”

This HPA also includes the following restrictions:

- Contractors cannot use leaf blowers on governmental properties on HPA days.
- Hotels, restaurants and residents must refrain from burning wood in their indoor fireplaces and outdoor fire pits during a HPA. Open burning is also restricted.
- Off-highway vehicles are prohibited from being used during a PM-10 HPA.

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities on Friday and suggests the general public limit outdoor activity throughout the day.

Valley Metro requests employers activate their HPA Plan. Residents and employers are asked to use these tips to help make the air healthier to breathe:

- Eliminate wood burning in fireplaces, stoves, chimineas and outdoor fire pits.
- Drive as little as possible: car pool, use public transit or telecommute. For information on transportation alternatives, visit Valley Metro: [www.valleymetro.org](http://www.valleymetro.org).
- Avoid using leaf blowers.
- Avoid activities that generate dust, such as driving on dirt roads.
- To learn more about the air you’re breathing, visit: [www.CleanAirMakeMore.com](http://www.CleanAirMakeMore.com)

**OZONE BACKGROUND:** Ground level ozone is formed by a chemical reaction that needs heat from sunlight, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds [VOCs] to form. The months of April through September make up our Valley’s longer-than-normal “ozone season.”

## **WHO'S WHO?**

The **Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)** provides a daily forecast for air quality. When conditions exist, ADEQ will issue high pollution advisories or health watches. Please visit [www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/ozone/ensemble.pdf](http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/ozone/ensemble.pdf) or call (602) 771-2367. To receive the air quality forecast via email and/or text message please visit [www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html](http://www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html)  
**CONTACT:** Mark Shaffer – (602) 771-2215 desk / (480) 433-9551 cell

The **Maricopa County Air Quality Department** is a regulatory agency whose goal is to ensure federal clean air standards are achieved and maintained for the residents and visitors of Maricopa County. The department is governed by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and follows air quality standards set forth by the federal Clean Air Act. The department offers air quality information and resources on its Clean Air Make More website. Please visit [www.cleanairmakemore.com](http://www.cleanairmakemore.com) to learn more.  
**CONTACT:** Holly Ward – (602) 506-6713 desk / (602) 526-7307 cell

**Valley Metro/RPTA** provides eco-friendly public transit options to residents of greater Phoenix and Maricopa County, including a clean-fuel bus fleet, low-emissions light rail, online carpool matching and bus trip mapping, and bicycle and telework assistance. Funding is provided by local, state and federal revenues; and administered by a board of 16 governments working to improve and regionalize the public transit system. Please visit [www.valleymetro.org](http://www.valleymetro.org) to learn more.  
**CONTACT:** Susan Tierney – (602) 523-6004 desk / (602) 292-4093 cell