



DATE: March 5, 2012

CONTACT: Mark Shaffer, Director of Communications, (602) 771-2215 (o);
(480) 433-9551 (cell)

ADEQ Issues Particulate Matter-10 High Pollution Advisory for Yuma on Tuesday as High Winds Expected to Stir Dust

PHOENIX (March 5, 2012) -- The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for the Yuma area for Tuesday, March 6 for PM-10, or particulate matter 10-microns or less in size.

This HPA is being issued because of anticipated high winds from a dry, strong cold front moving through the Yuma region of western Arizona on Tuesday and Wednesday. The front, with predicted wind gusts of between 40 and 50 mph, is expected to generate large amounts of dust.

“We are expecting a lot of blowing dust because of the front coupled with the lack of significant winter rains in the Yuma area,” said ADEQ Air Quality Division Director Eric Massey.

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities on Tuesday and suggests the general public limit outdoor activity throughout the day. Yuma and area residents should avoid activities that generate dust like driving on dirt roads; avoid using leaf blowers; and eliminate wood burning in fireplaces, stoves, chimineas and outdoor fire pits.

PM-10 is extremely small solid particles and liquid droplets found circulating in the air which comes from stirred dust or combustion from either cars, industry or wood burning. High levels of PM are typically created when the air is especially stagnant or especially windy. One particle of PM-10 is about one-seventh the size of a human hair.

ADEQ provides a daily air quality forecast for the Yuma area at <http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/ozone/yumef.pdf>. To subscribe to the Yuma daily air quality forecast, go to <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/AZDEQ/subscriber/new>, enter your email address and check “Yuma Ensemble Forecast.”

To receive press releases by email: <http://www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html>
Follow ADEQ on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/azdeq>
Follow ADEQ on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ArizonaDEQ>