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

PHOENIX (April 7, 2013) -- The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for the Yuma area for Monday, April 8 for PM-10, or particulate matter 10-microns or less in size.

This HPA is being issued because a lengthy period of strong, gusty winds is expected throughout the region on Monday which will create a high risk for dense dust and unhealthy PM-10 concentrations in the air.

"ADEQ meteorologists are forecasting a high risk of blowing dust due to high winds and minimal chances of rain throughout the region," said ADEQ Air Quality Division Director Eric Massey. "We are asking everyone who generates dust to take extra precautions to minimize emissions throughout the event."

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities on Monday 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."

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