



Maricopa County  
Air Quality Department



## HIGH POLLUTION ADVISORY

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for Particulate Matter-10 for the remainder of Friday, Sept. 26.

The HPA is being issued because gusty winds outflowing from anticipated thunderstorms later today in the Phoenix metropolitan area are expected to stir up the relatively dry soil in the lower deserts and create dust storm conditions in Maricopa and Pinal counties.

“Last night's moisture surge, combined with the leading edge of the approaching winter storm has led to the development of more thunderstorms than previously expected,” said ADEQ Air Quality Division Director Eric Massey. “These storms are likely to produce strong winds which will drive concentrations of dust into the unhealthy range.”

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems, along with the general public avoid outdoor activities for the remainder of Friday.

This HPA also includes the following restrictions:

- Contractors cannot use leaf blowers on governmental properties on HPA days.
- Open burning activity is restricted in Maricopa County. This includes individuals and businesses which have burn permits for open burning.
- Off-highway vehicles are prohibited from being used during a PM-10 HPA.

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)

**PARTICULATE MATTER BACKGROUND:** State and county agencies measure PM-10 and PM-2.5 which are extremely small solid particles and liquid droplets found circulating in the air. PM, or particulate matter, comes from either combustion (cars, industry, woodburning) or dust stirred up into the air. High levels of PM are typically created when the air is especially stagnant or especially windy.

PM-10 stands for particulate matter measuring 10 microns or less. PM-2.5 stands for particulate matter measuring 2.5 microns or less. To put this in perspective, one strand of human hair is 70-100 microns in size.

**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/enviro/air/ozone/ensemble.pdf](http://www.azdeq.gov/enviro/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:** Bob Huhn -- (602) 506-6713 desk / (602) 526-7307 cell

**Valley Metro** 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

