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

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

PHOENIX (Dec. 24, 2014) -- The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for the Yuma area for Thursday, Dec. 25 for PM-10, or particulate matter 10 microns or less in size.

The HPA is being issued because blowing dust is expected as a trough of low-pressure is projected to race into the southwestern United States in the next 24 hours. At the leading edge of the trough is a dry cold front that will enhance lower-level winds starting late tonight. The northwesterly wind direction aligning with the nearby Algodones Dunes can create periods of blowing sand/dust into Yuma.

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities on Thursday 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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