

Quick Facts

- Several alternatives to vehicles have been created: more Park and Ride lots, Rapid Bus routes, High Occupancy Vehicle lanes, cleaner cars, the Travel Reduction program and the Voluntary Vehicle Repair and Retrofit program all address vehicle emissions.
- From January 2004 through December 2006, the Valley exceeded the health standard on more than 40 days!
- One billion dollars – that's the amount of federal highway funding the Valley could lose if clean air standards do not meet applicable deadlines.

We All Need To Contribute

Everyone needs to contribute to achieving healthy air. Despite all the efforts to date, the Valley still has not met the national public health standards.

Contacts for Further Information



Janice K. Brewer, Governor

Main Office

1110 W. Washington St.

Phoenix, AZ 85007

(602) 771-2300

(800) 234-5677

(602) 771-4829 (Hearing impaired)

Web site: www.air.azdeq.gov

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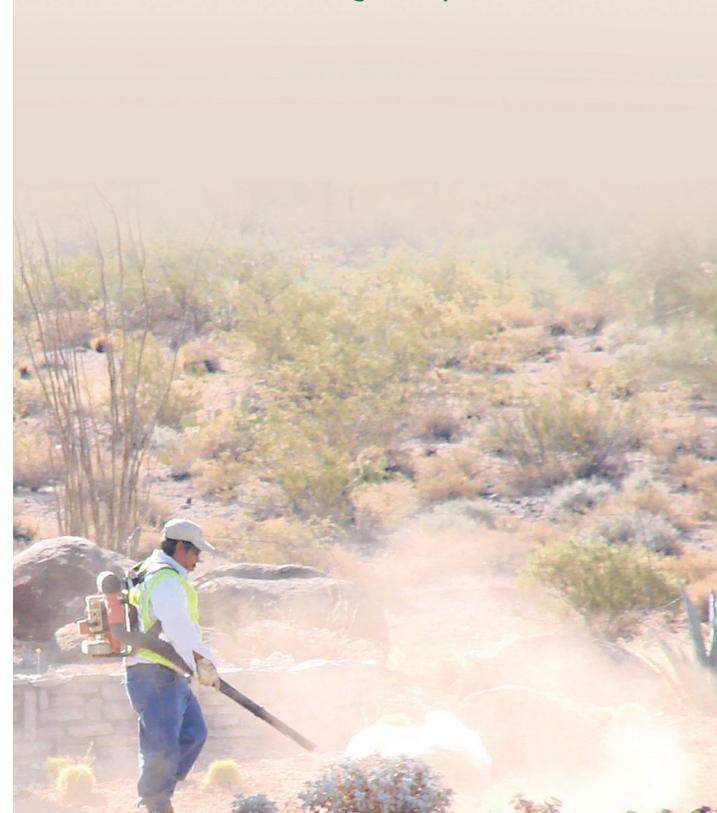
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Information on New Leaf Blower Regulations

Effective April 1, 2008*



*** Please reduce emissions all winter 2007-2008 voluntarily.**

What You Can Do to Comply:

Local laws in the Valley of the Sun effective April 1, 2008:

- Ban on blowing debris into the street
- Ban on using a blower on dirt fields, road shoulders or loose dirt
- Limit leaf blower use on High Pollution Advisory days. To find out if there is an advisory, call (602) 771-2367, sign up for a text message at: www.azdeq.gov/sms.html or look on www.azdeq.gov/ensemble.pdf

Why Are These New Regulations Needed?

From 2004-2006, the Valley did not meet Federal Air Quality Health Standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for particulate matter. In order to meet the health standards, the Valley cannot exceed the EPA's standard more than three times in a three-year period.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has given the Valley another chance to make progress toward meeting the standards before they step in.

The goal is to meet federal clean air standards by 2010. To achieve this goal, a plan has been developed to reduce emissions by 5% each year until the air quality standard is met.

What if the Valley Doesn't Comply?

Federal highway funding can be withheld if an area does not meet applicable deadlines. If funding for the Valley is withheld, road construction could be delayed for years, halting the expansion of our highways and causing even more gridlock.

Why Does Lawn Equipment Matter for Air Quality?

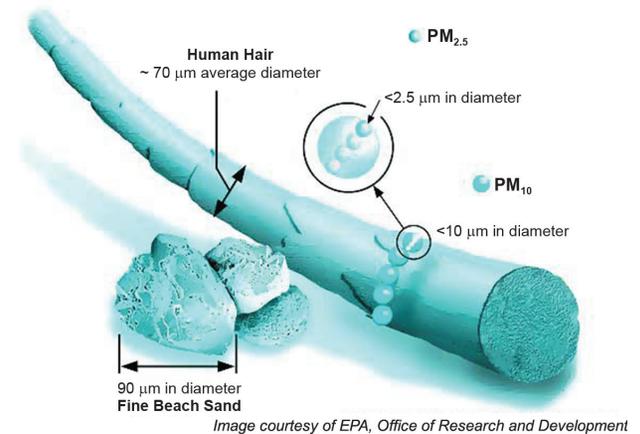
Emissions from lawn and garden equipment are one of the top five off-road sources of particulate emissions in the Valley.

Why is Breathing Particulate Matter Unhealthy?

Coarse particulate matter, or PM₁₀, is a mixture of solid and liquid particles suspended in air. This pollution is made up of a number of components, including acids, metals, chemicals, soil particles, and allergens (pollen or mold spores).

The size of particles is important because of potential health problems. Small particles 10 microns and less in diameter (PM₁₀) pose the greatest problems, because they can get deep into the lungs – the smallest particles may even get into the bloodstream, affecting a person's lungs and heart. Larger particles are of less concern, although they can irritate the eyes, nose and throat and trigger asthma attacks.

How Small Is PM₁₀?



Why Not Do More About Cars – They Must Be A Bigger Contributor?

Vehicle exhaust has been heavily regulated since the 1970s. Since that time, tailpipe emissions have been drastically reduced. Vehicles already must pass the most rigorous emissions inspections program in the nation and use cleaner burning fuels.

