

HIGH POLLUTION ADVISORY

Effective Tuesday, October 27, 2009

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for Tuesday, Oct. 27 for Particulate Matter pollution (PM-10).

This HPA is being issued because a cold front with strong winds is expected to reach the Valley by Tuesday afternoon. Because there has been no significant rainfall since August, the front is expected to generate large amounts of blowing dust, which may continue on Wednesday.

“As a result, the Maricopa County Air Quality Department will enforce the mandatory “No Burn Day” restriction for Maricopa County from midnight to midnight during the HPA,” reminds department Director Lawrence Odle. “Residents and businesses must refrain from burning activity during this 24-hour period.” This restriction includes individuals and businesses that have burn permits for open burning.

This HPA also includes the following restrictions:

- Contractors cannot use leaf blowers on governmental properties on HPA days.
- Hotels, restaurants and residents must refrain from burning wood in their indoor fireplaces and outdoor fire pits during a HPA. Open burning is also restricted.
- Off-highway vehicles are prohibited from being used during a PM-10 HPA.

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities on Tuesday and suggests the general public limit outdoor activity during periods when there is windblown dust occurring. People exposed to particles may experience a number of respiratory symptoms including coughing and phlegm, decreased lung function, airway inflammation, asthma attacks, and chronic bronchitis. Older adults and people with heart or lung diseases are more vulnerable to particle pollution. Children are at risk because they are more likely to be active, they breathe more air per pound of body weight than adults, and their bodies are still developing.

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:

- Use public transit, carpool or telecommute if possible
- Eliminate all unnecessary driving and/or combine trips
- Visit www.ValleyMetro.org to map a commute on bus or light rail, find a carpool/vanpool partner, or bike route.
- To learn more about the air you're breathing, visit: 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.

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, health watches and alerts. Daily air quality forecasts are on ADEQ's Web site at www.azdeq.gov/enviro/air/ozone/ensemble.pdf or by calling (602)771-2367. Those interested in receiving the air quality forecast via email can subscribe to ADEQ's forecast list at www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html and text alerts at www.azdeq.gov/sms.html

The **Maricopa County Air Quality Department** issues No Burn Day restrictions based on a high pollution advisory or health watch. These No Burn Day restrictions typically occur during the winter months. To find out if any burn restrictions are in place, call 602-506-6400 or visit www.cleanairmakemore.com. Information is given in both English and Spanish.

To learn more about the Maricopa County residential woodburning restriction ordinance, view a copy on our website www.maricopa.gov/aq. Click on the direct link to the residential woodburning restriction ordinance: http://www.maricopa.gov/aq/divisions/planning_analysis/rules/docs/rwro9911.pdf

Valley Metro/RPTA 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 15 governments working to improve and regionalize the public transit system. www.ValleyMetro.org

Media contacts:

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality [ADEQ]
Mark Shaffer - 602-771-2215 desk / 480-433-9551 cell

Maricopa County Air Quality Department
Holly Ward - 602-506-6713 desk / 602-526-7307 cell

Valley Metro
Susan Tierney - 602-262-4668 desk / 602-292-4093 cell

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