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ADEQ Issues General Smoke Advisory for Santa Cruz, Cochise, Pima Counties because of Wildfire Smoke

PHOENIX (May 4, 2011) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a general smoke advisory for Santa Cruz, Cochise and Pima counties because of northward smoke movement from a Mexican wildfire about 10 miles southeast of Nogales, Sonora.

The advisory is effective immediately through Saturday. ADEQ recommends that children, the elderly and those of all ages with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities during that time period if fire smoke is affecting their areas.

If you smell smoke and are being negatively impacted:

- Consider temporarily relocating to another area as long as it is safe to do so.
- If you are indoors, stay there with doors and windows closed.
- Do not use an evaporative cooler while smoke is present in the area. Run the air conditioning or the fan feature on your home cooling system so that the filter can remove smoke. If you have a separate room filtration system, that can also be used to reduce smoke.
- Reduce physical activity.
- If respiratory symptoms persist or become more severe, contact your primary health care provider.

Concerned individuals can get more information from the ADEQ on the internet at www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/smoke/download/fire_smoke_your_health_brochure.pdf and from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Web page at www.azdhs.gov/phs/oeh/wildfire.htm.

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