



DATE: Jan. 11, 2013

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Particulate Matter-2.5 High Pollution Advisory Extended Through Saturday and Sunday for Nogales Vicinity

PHOENIX (Jan. 11, 2013) -- The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has extended a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) issued for Nogales and vicinity for PM-2.5, or fine particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in size, through Saturday and Sunday.

The HPA is being extended because light winds are predicted during the very cold upcoming weekend and PM-2.5 concentrations are expected to exceed health standards because of the anticipated burning of wood by people on both sides of the international border to stay warm.

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities and suggests that the general public limit outdoor activity throughout the weekend. Nogales and vicinity residents should avoid activities that generate fine dust like wood burning in fireplaces, stoves, chimineas and outdoor fire pits and driving on dirt roads.

PM-2.5 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-2.5 is about one-thirtieth the size of a human hair.

ADEQ provides a daily air quality forecast for Nogales at <http://www.azdeq.gov/enviro/air/ozone/nogales.pdf>. To subscribe to the Nogales and vicinity air quality forecast, go to <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/AZDEQ/subscriber/new>, enter your email address and check "Nogales Air Quality Forecast."

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