



Maricopa County
Air Quality Department



HIGH POLLUTION ADVISORY

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for Wednesday, March 26 for PM-10, or particulate matter 10-microns or less in size.

This HPA is being issued because strong winds moving in from a front from the west are expected to generate dust in the Phoenix metropolitan area and create a high risk for unhealthy PM-10 concentrations in the air.

"ADEQ meteorologists are forecasting a high risk of blowing dust due to high winds and minimal chances of rain throughout the region," said ADEQ Air Quality Division Director Eric Massey. "We are asking everyone who generates dust to take extra precautions to minimize emissions throughout the event."

As a result, the Maricopa County Air Quality Department is enforcing No Burn restrictions for Maricopa County from midnight to midnight Wednesday. Businesses conducting dust-generating operations are urged to be vigilant in their dust control measures.

This HPA also includes the following restrictions:

- Contractors cannot use leaf blowers on governmental properties on HPA days.
- Open burning and residential fireplace burning is restricted in Maricopa County during a PM-10 HPA. This includes individuals and businesses which have burn permits for open burning.
- 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 Wednesday and suggests the general public limit outdoor activity throughout the day.

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:

- Eliminate wood burning in fireplaces, stoves, chimineas and outdoor fire pits.
- Drive as little as possible: car pool, use public transit or telecommute. For information on transportation alternatives, visit Valley Metro: www.valleymetro.org.
- Avoid using leaf blowers.
- Avoid activities that generate dust, such as driving on dirt roads.
- 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 or health watches. Daily air quality forecasts are on ADEQ's Web site at www.azdeq.gov/environ/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 <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/AZDEQ/subscriber/new>

CONTACT: Mark Shaffer – (602) 771-2215 desk / (480) 433-9551 cell

The **Maricopa County Air Quality Department** is a regulatory agency whose goal is to ensure federal clean air standards are achieved and maintained for the residents and visitors of Maricopa County. The department is governed by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and follows air quality standards set forth by the federal Clean Air Act. The department offers air quality information and resources on its Clean Air Make More website. Please visit www.CleanAirMakeMore.com to learn more.

CONTACT: Bob Huhn – (602) 506-6713 desk / (602) 526-7307 cell

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 16 governments working to improve and regionalize the public transit system. Please visit www.ValleyMetro.org to learn more.

CONTACT: Susan Tierney – (602) 523-6004 desk / (602) 292-4093 cell