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ADEQ Issues Particulate Matter-10 High Pollution Advisory for Yuma on Tuesday as High Winds Expected to Stir Dust

PHOENIX (May 19, 2014) -- The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is issuing a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for the Yuma area for Tuesday, May 20 for PM-10, or particulate matter 10 microns or less in size.

This HPA is being issued because a low-pressure system is working its way down the West Coast, which is expected to produce wind gusts of more than 25 mph late Monday and Tuesday in the Yuma area and transport dust from other places, creating unhealthy dust concentrations and reducing visibility. ADEQ also issued a Health Watch for Yuma and vicinity for Monday.

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities on Tuesday and suggests the general public limit outdoor activity throughout the day. Yuma and area residents should avoid activities that generate dust like driving on dirt roads; avoid using leaf blowers; and eliminate wood burning in fireplaces, stoves, chimineas and outdoor fire pits.

PM-10 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-10 is about one-seventh the size of a human hair.

ADEQ provides a daily air quality forecast for the Yuma area at <http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/ozone/yumef.pdf> . To subscribe to the Yuma daily air quality forecast, go to <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/AZDEQ/subscriber/new>, enter your email address and check “Yuma Ensemble Forecast.”

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