



PM_{2.5} Air Pollutant

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is issuing a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for Thurs., Dec. 31, 2015, for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), also known as soot, for the Nogales, Arizona.

The HPA is being issued because stagnant weather conditions and strong temperature inversions exacerbated by expected increased wood burning associated with holiday celebrations will create a sharp rise in particulates.

ADEQ recommends that the general public limit outdoor activity while the HPA is in effect, especially children and adults with respiratory problems. ADEQ also urges businesses conducting dust-generating operations to be vigilant in their dust control measures.

During this HPA, ADEQ encourages residents and employers to use these tips and resources to help make the air healthier to breathe:

- Avoid or limit wood burning in residential fireplaces, chimineas, outdoor fire pits, and similar outdoor fires (including at hotels and restaurants and individuals/businesses that have permits for open burning);
- Avoid using leaf blowers;
- Avoid activities that generate dust, such as driving on dirt roads and using off-highway vehicles; and
- Drive as little as possible, carpool, use public transit, or telecommute.

BACKGROUND:

High Pollution Advisory or HPA: The highest level of an air pollutant may exceed the federal health standard.

Particulate Matter: State and county agencies measure levels of particulate matter (PM) in the air. PM is extremely small solid particles and liquid droplets that circulate in air. PM comes from combustion (cars, industry, wood burning) or dust stirred up into the air. High levels of PM occur when air is especially stagnant or windy. Two types of PM are measured: PM₁₀, which commonly is called dust, and PM_{2.5}, commonly called soot. PM₁₀ refers to dust that is 10 microns or less and PM_{2.5} soot that is 2.5 microns or less. For perspective, one strand of human hair is 70-100 microns in size.

CONTACT:

The **Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)** provides a daily forecast for Nogales air quality and issues HPAs or health watches when these conditions exist. To receive air quality forecasts visit: azdeq.gov/environ/air/ozone/nogales.pdf

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Caroline Oppleman – (602) 771-2215 desk or (602) 540-8072 cell