



PM₁₀ Air Pollutant - Yuma

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is issuing a High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for Friday, April 15, 2016 for coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀), also known as dust, for the Yuma area.

The HPA is being issued because ADEQ's forecast for the Yuma area indicates very windy conditions and potential blowing dust. Focus for strongest winds in Yuma will be Friday.

ADEQ recommends that children and adults with respiratory problems avoid outdoor activities on Friday during periods of blowing dust and suggests the general public limit outdoor activity throughout the day. Yuma area residents should avoid activities that generate dust like driving on dirt roads and using leaf blowers.

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 air quality and issues HPAs or health watches when these conditions exist. Please visit <https://azdeq.gov/environ/air/ozone/yumef.pdf> or subscribe to receive forecasts via text message or email here <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/AZDEQ/subscriber/new>.