

Particulate Matter [PM] And Your Health

Exposure to particle matter can affect both your lungs and your heart. Studies have linked particle exposure to:

- Premature death in people with heart or lung disease
- Nonfatal heart attacks
- Irregular heartbeat
- Aggravated asthma
- Decreased lung function, and
- Increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing or difficulty breathing.

People with heart or lung diseases, children and older adults are the most likely to be affected by particulate matter.

Whatever you do
may have an affect on
others!



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Fugitive Dust



Pinal County Air Quality



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Arena Dust



You know arena dust is bad. A horse's lungs are bigger than ours, so when we're choking on the dust produced by a horse, so are they, only more so.

Do not allow dust to become airborne without taking reasonable precautions.

Using water is the simplest and least expensive way to prevent dust. The most efficient way to water an arena is an initial deep watering down to the base layer.

- Water mornings and evenings, and use landscaping to prevent evaporation. By adding weight to the small particles, it will keep them from floating into the air.
- Be considerate of your neighbors. They may be bearing the brunt of your dust.
- Pick manure out of your arena after each ride to prevent fine particles from turning into added dust.



ATVs in Pinal County

Erosion and dust are the two biggest problems with riding in the washes. The washes have a particular riparian habitat that is a nice attraction to the people that walk, ride or ride their horses along the trails. When vegetation is disturbed by ATVs, it creates erosion problems and kicks up dust. Popular ATV sites where riding is not permitted are patrolled to advise drivers of where riding is encouraged. Drivers in places off-limits are usually given a warning, although repeat offenders could be charged with trespassing.

Designated roads and trails are used by hikers, bicyclists, and off-road vehicles to enjoy the outdoors. The area you ride in can continue to be affected long after you've enjoyed the area. If left alone, the soils of undisturbed desert land naturally bind together forming a crust. This crust resists wind. When the soil is disturbed by activities, such as off-road riding, dust particles can become airborne more easily during future high wind events.

In addition, riding too close to residential or business areas creates a public nuisance due to the noise, vehicle emissions, and airborne dust.



Summary of Pinal County Fugitive Dust Rule

ARTICLE 2 FUGITIVE DUST

4-2-040

- No person shall operate, maintain, use or permit the use of any commercial feedlot or commercial livestock area for purposes of feeding or displaying animals, or engage in other activity such as racing and exercising, without taking reasonable precautions to effectively prevent fugitive dust from becoming airborne.
- Do not allow motor vehicles, such as but not limited to all-terrain vehicles, trucks, cars, cycles, bikes or buggies to drive over vacant lots, or urban or suburban open areas without taking reasonable precautions to keep the fugitive dust from becoming airborne.
- Do not allow visible dust emissions to cross property lines into residential, recreational, institutional, education, retail sales, hotel or business while operating a motor vehicle for recreational purposes in a dry wash, riverbed or open area. "Motor vehicle" includes trucks, cars, cycles, bikes, buggies and 3-wheelers.
- Do not disturb or remove soil or natural cover from any area without taking reasonable precautions to effectively prevent fugitive dust from becoming airborne.

See PCAQCD Code 4-2-040 for a complete listing of the activities covered by the Fugitive Dust Rule.

Violations are subject to the penalties listed in A.R.S. §49-513.