
Blowing Dust-Protecting Yourself and Notification



Air Quality Bureau Mission: To protect the inhabitants and natural beauty of New Mexico by preventing the deterioration of air quality

City of Las Cruces Dust Summit
February 19, 2014

High Risk Groups

- Infants, children, and teens
 - Elderly
 - People with asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, or other respiratory conditions
 - People with heart disease
 - Pregnant women
 - Healthy adults working or exercising vigorously outdoors
 - agricultural workers, construction workers, runners, etc.
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Protecting Yourself

- Limit outdoor activities
- Keep children inside
- Keep windows closed
- Avoid strenuous outdoor work and exercise
- Limit indoor air pollutants
 - Cooking
 - Burning candles
- Avoid driving through storms
- Wear personal protection
 - Eyewear or goggles
 - Mouth and nose coverings
 - N-95 respirator best
 - Moist bandanna/handkerchief
 - lip balm and/or petroleum jelly

Driving in a Dust Storm

- Avoid if possible
 - Check surrounding traffic and slow down
 - Completely exit highway or pull off as far as possible
 - Lights off
 - Headlights
 - Hazards
 - Foot off brake
 - Stay inside vehicle with seatbelt fastened
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Notification and Alerts

- Weather Forecasts and Warnings

- National Weather Service (NWS)
- Television
- Radio
- Social media

- Air Quality Forecasts

- Environmental Protection Agency-AirNow (EPA AirNow)
- Navy Aerosol Analysis and Prediction Center (NAAPS)

- Air Quality Monitoring

- NMED website
 - Visual cues
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Weather Forecasts

- NWS

- El Paso Forecast Office

- Local Forecast

- Warnings, watches and advisories

- <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/elp/>

- <http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?CityName=Las+Cruces&state=NM&site=EPZ&lat=32.3361&lon=-106.756>

- KFOX, KTSM, KDDBC and KVIA

Air Quality Forecasts

- EPA AirNow

- <http://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=airnow.main>

- NAAPS

- http://www.nrlmry.navy.mil/aerosol/index_frame.html

Current Conditions

- NMED Website

- <http://drdasnm1.alink.com/>

- Visual clues

- NWS Website

- <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/data/obhistory/KLRU.html>

- Guidelines

- Face away from sun

- Determine visibility range by looking at objects at a known distance

- Use chart to determine air quality

Visual Clues and Actions

Visibility Range (miles)	Concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)/ Air Quality Index Color	Level of Health Concern	Health Effect	Cautionary Statement
10 and up	0-54 (Green)	Good	None	None
4 to 9	55-154 (Yellow)	Moderate	None	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
2.5 to 3	155-254 (Orange)	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Increasing likelihood of respiratory symptoms and aggravation of lung disease, such as asthma.	People with heart or lung disease, older adults and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
1.25 to 2	255-354 (Red)	Unhealthy	Increased respiratory symptoms and aggravation of lung disease, such as asthma and possible respiratory effects to the general population.	People with heart or lung disease, older adults and children should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
1.0	355-504 (Purple)	Very Unhealthy	Significant increase in respiratory symptoms and aggravation of lung disease, such as asthma and increasing likelihood of respiratory effects on the general population	People with heart or lung disease, older adults and children should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.
0.75 or less	505+ (Maroon)	Hazardous	Serious aggravation of heart or lung disease and premature mortality in persons with cardiopulmonary disease; serious risk of respiratory effects in the general population	People with heart or lung disease, older adults and children should remain indoors and keep activity levels low. Everyone else should avoid all physical activity outdoors.

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www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/
