

April 2006

Disturbed Land, A New Focus

On a very windy day in March, PDEQ environmental enforcement officers (fugitive dust inspectors) set out into the field to hunt down dust. They visited construction sites and instead of issuing warnings, held out their congratulatory hands. Contractors, for the most part, are doing what they should to control dust on their work sites. What the dust inspectors found though, were major dust issues with disturbed open and vacant lands, like overflow and special event parking lots.

Most of the dust inspections on disturbed open or vacant lands to date have been from complaints or special project surveillance. Within the next few months however, businesses, landowners, and homeowners alike will see inspectors performing *routine* surveillance on disturbed open and vacant lands.

What will inspectors be looking at?

- Overflow parking lots near restaurants, apartments, and other businesses
- Unpaved special event parking lots
- Horse corrals and arenas
- Unpaved driveways
- Unpaved turn around points
- Worn-down gravel driveways
- Off-road vehicle tracks in residential areas
- Unpaved road shoulders

What can you do to help?

- Pave or maintain gravel on your driveway
- Resist parking on dirt lots
- Avoid turning around on dirt lots and road shoulders
- Ride off-road vehicles in designated areas away from residences
- Take effective measures to keep dust down on horse arenas or corrals
- Call 740.3340 with complaints about airborne dust

Our actions make a difference. Protect your health and the environment. Keep dust down!

Questions or concerns? Click or call: www.deq.pima.gov/air/NEAP/dustinfo.html,
karen.wilhelmsen@deq.pima.gov, or 740.3345.