

October 2005

Landowners Bust the Dust

Scenario: You own a piece of desert land. You bought it for investment purposes and are just letting it sit there for a while. It has some native vegetation on it and is otherwise just a vacant dirt lot. You don't use your property for anything, but people use it as a short cut to avoid traffic, or they might park there if they can't find parking in the paved lot for the apartment complex or commercial business next door. Trespassers have disturbed the soil crust, which makes it easier for dust to get kicked up into the air.

Question: Are you, as landowner, liable for airborne dust that may get kicked up on your property because trespassers have disturbed the land?

Answer: Yes. Under Title 17 of the Pima County Code, landowners must take reasonable precautions to limit excessive amounts of particulates (airborne dust) from becoming airborne. Disturbed vacant or open land is the largest single source of airborne dust in Pima County. For the health and well-being of the community, it is important to control dust on your property.

Take Reasonable Precautions

- Post "No Trespassing" signs
- Bar access with a fence, boulders, vegetation, etc.
- Plant native, drought-tolerant vegetation to cover the topsoil
- Gravel, pave, or use an effective dust suppressant on areas being used
- Avoid driving over or parking on dirt lots when possible

Our choices make a difference.

Questions or Concerns? Click or call: <www.deq.pima.gov/air/pcneap/Dust_info.htm>, e-mail <karen.wilhelmsen@deq.pima.gov>, or 740-3340.

Got Dust? Keep it Down!