



## Dust Control for Special Events Guidance

### Development Services

#### Department

90 E Civic Center Dr.

Gilbert, AZ 85296

Phone: 480-503-6700

Fax: 480-497-4923

[www.gilbertaz.gov](http://www.gilbertaz.gov)

### Background:

Maricopa County and parts of neighboring counties are out of compliance with health based standards for air quality for pollutants such as Particulate Matter (PM) or dust.

In an effort to ensure events held on unpaved surfaces in Gilbert are as dust free as possible, this procedure has been put into place.

### Affected events:

- Special events or activities (including parking) held on privately owned unpaved property within Gilbert town limits.
- Special events or activities (including parking) held on unpaved property owned by Gilbert.

### Exemptions:

de minimus: any use of unpaved surfaces for the purpose of parking, storage, driving, etc. that disturbed less than 0.10 acres (4,356 sq ft) is exempt from these requirements. Note that this does not exempt the operator from liability for maintaining a dust free event.

### Requirements:

#### Dust Control Plan (DCP):

A written DCP, signed by the Owner or Responsible Official of the Applicant is required for any special event or temporary parking done on an unpaved surface. For events where Gilbert is the applicant, this would be the Director of the department holding the event.

The complete DCP must be submitted as part of the special event permit application to Gilbert Development Services as well as to Maricopa County Air Quality via fax (602-506-5179) at least 30 days prior to the event.

The DCP must be submitted on the “Dust Control Plan Special Event or Temporary Parking on an Unpaved Surface” form found on Gilbert’s Development Services website or by visiting Gilbert’s Development Services office at 90 E Civic Center Dr. Gilbert, AZ 85296. The DCP must include all sections and will not be considered complete until all sections have been filled out.

#### Certification by a Responsible Official of the Applicant

The person signing the DCP must be the Property Owner or Responsible Official of the organization hosting the event. The person signing the plan must be able to certify that they are familiar with the event and that they agree to take the prescribed measures to control dust. They are also stating that they agree to follow all Gilbert Ordinances and all other applicable rules and regulations.

A legal name, title, date and signature are required. The application will not be considered complete until these portions are complete.

#### Control Measures:

Control measures are the means organizers will use to control dust. Organizers are responsible for dust control before, during, and after all activities. The site must be “permanently” stabilized after the event meaning that the soil has a crust and the soil is not susceptible to wind erosion. This may mean fencing the area or putting up legal “No Trespassing” signs as well as stabilizing the soil.

For some of the areas or sections in the “Dust Control Plan Special Event or Temporary Parking on an Unpaved Surface” form, there is a primary and a contingency control measure requirement for some

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sections. The primary measure is the measure that will be used to control dust first and regularly. The contingency is the method that will be used to control dust if the primary control measure is not working. In the event that air born dust gets out of control, it is always a good idea to stop whatever activity is causing dust until the situation is back under control. By laying out the chosen control measures in this format, it is easy for event staff to know what the plan is for controlling dust.

There are different control measures for different types of activities and those listed in this guidance and on the dust control plan form are but a few methods that when implemented correctly and maintained, have worked in the past.

**Unpaved Parking Lots:** Vehicle travel is one way that soil can become pulverized making it more easily entrained into the air. By keep soil damp (not muddy) it significantly reduces the risk of windblown dust. Other options include a dust free cover which may be rock, asphalt millings, vegetation, a soil tackifier, etc. Whatever choice is made, it must prevent windblown dust.

**Unpaved Pathways Used For Vehicular Travel:** Again, vehicle travel is one way that dust can easily be entrained into the air. Controlling dust in these areas is very important. By keep soil damp (not muddy) it significantly reduces the risk of windblown dust. Other options include a dust free cover which may be rock, asphalt millings, vegetation, a soil tackifier, etc. Whatever choice is made, it must prevent windblown dust.

**Unpaved Areas and Pathways Not Associated With Parking:** While not as bad as vehicular traffic, pedestrian traffic can cause soil to break down into finer particles which can more easily be entrained into the air. By using water, a soil tackifier, etc. the chances of dust being entrained are reduced.

**Track-out:** Track-out occurs when soil, either wet or dry, is carried out onto paved surface by vehicles exiting an unpaved area. This is a twofold problem, air quality and stormwater. This is a stormwater issue in that sediment can cause the storm sewer, separate from the sanitary sewer, to become clogged which may cause flooding during rain events. As far as air quality goes, once that soil that is now being rolled over by vehicles dries, it can easily be entrained into the air causing air quality problems. For these reasons it is best to prevent track-out from occurring or at least get it cleaned up as soon as possible.

Preventing track-out can be accomplished using a few different methods. A rumble grate, cattle guard or “grizzly” is a device that is partially buried in the soil and as cars roll over it, it causes them to jostle a little bit which knocks the soil off of the tires before the access paved surface. It is important that the device is located adjacent to paved surface or otherwise dust proof surface so that the car doesn’t pick up more dirt after it has gone over the device.

Another option is a gravel pad. These can usually be seen at construction sites and is a strip of gravel at least twice as wide as a car and at least 50 feet long made up of large river rock. These river rocks cause the car to jostle about as it moves through the rock which causes dirt to fall off. These devices must be maintained so that the rock does not become compacted. The problem with these devices for special events or temporary unpaved parking is that vehicles may get stuck in the rock which would necessitate them having to be towed out.

Preventing track-out is most often best but having a plan to clean it up is also very important. When the situation allows, having someone with a push broom dedicated to watching and cleaning up track-out is a good idea. When this is not feasible, hiring a street sweeping company to continually make passes is a good idea. In any event, track-out cannot reach 25 linear feet as that will result in a violation of dust control rules. All track-out, regardless of length must be cleaned up by the end of the day, every day, even if the event runs for more than one day.

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### Site Diagram:

A site diagram helps event organizers as well as regulators to understand what the plan is. The site diagram should include nearest major cross streets, site boundaries, site entrances and exits, as well as a clear delineation of where parking and other events will occur. This does not have to be a professionally prepared document, a simple clean drawing will suffice.

### Definition of Terms:

These terms are a few of the key terms that may be of use when considering dust control for special events. They are taken largely from Maricopa County Air Quality Department Rules 310 and 310.01. Please consult those regulations for further definitions and details.

- **Disturbed Surface Area** – The portion of a vacant or unpaved lot/open area whose surface crust has been destabilized from its undisturbed native condition. For the purpose of this dust control plan, an area is considered to be a disturbed surface area until the vehicle use for temporary parking or other activities has been completed and the disturbed surface area has been stabilized.
- **Dust Suppressants or Tackifiers** – include but are not limited to: water, hygroscopic materials, solution of water and chemical surfactant, foam, non-toxic chemical stabilizer or any other dust palliative, which is not prohibited for ground surface application by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) or any applicable law, rule, or regulation, as a treatment material for reducing fugitive dust emissions. Additional information about dust suppressants is available on MCAQD’s website.
- **Opacity** – the amount of a field of vision that is obscured by particulate matter. As a general rule of thumb, while standing with your back to the sun or other light source, you can see dust; it is already close to 20% opacity and a potential violation of the standard.
- **Permanent Stabilization** – required after a Special Event or the use of an unpaved lot for temporary parking. This does not mean paving the disturbed surface is required. Instead, one (or a combination of) listed dust control material(s) must be used to restore the surface crust where disturbance has destabilized the soil. The dust control material(s) applied to the disturbed surface area must provide effective, long term dust control, which the property owner and/or operator can maintain in order to comply with vacant lot/open area dust control requirements.
- **Stabilization** – the condition where the soil on an unpaved/vacant lot is not subject to wind erosion. Dust generated from the wind must be controlled before, during, and after a Special Event or the use of a lot for temporary parking. This includes temporary stabilization during any inactive times including weekends, after work hours, and holidays. This means 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- **Water** – water may be used as a dust suppressant which can provide adequate dust control either alone or in combination with other dust control materials and/or methods. It is sometimes the most cost effective control measure but should be used wisely so as not to cause other problems such as track-out.
- **Wind Event** – a “wind event” is when the 60 minute average wind speed is greater than 25 mph. During a wind event, all dust generating activity must cease and 100% of the time/energy of staff should be put toward dust control.

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Dust Control Plan for Special Events & Temporary Parking on Unpaved Surfaces

Development Services Department
90 E. Civic Center Dr.
Gilbert, AZ 85296
(480) 503-6700-Phone
(480) 497-4923-Fax
www.gilbertaz.gov

Applicant Information

1. Applicant: [Redacted]
Relationship to Property (check all that apply)
[ ] Property Owner [ ] Lessee [ ] Renter [ ] Other (please specify) [Redacted]
Address: [Redacted]
Phone: [Redacted] Fax: [Redacted]
E-mail: [Redacted]

Contact Information

All Dust Control Plans must include a Primary Contact as well as an Emergency Contact with a phone number that will be monitored 24 hours per day.
Contact name: [Redacted] Phone: [Redacted]
Emergency Contact: [Redacted] 24 Hr Phone: [Redacted]
Optional:
2nd Emergency Contact: [Redacted] 24 Hr Phone: [Redacted]

Special Event Information

[ ] This is not a special event (skip to Temporary Parking section).

Name: [Redacted] Date(s): [Redacted]
Location: [Redacted]
Nearest Major N/S Cross Street: [Redacted] Nearest Major E/W Cross Street: [Redacted]
Event Description: [Redacted]

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**Special Event Dust Control Plan**

*Note: Every category below must have at least one "Primary" (P) and "Contingency" (C) control measure. The primary control measure is what will be used primarily to control dust during activity. The contingency is what will be done when the primary control measure becomes infeasible or does not work. When a category is not applicable, type "NA" or "not applicable."*

**Unpaved Pathways Not Associated With Parking:**  NA

- P  C Apply water before, during & after event.  
Specify method of applying water (i.e. water truck, fire hose, etc.):
- P  C Apply and maintain a dust free cover (see "Dust Control for Special Events/Temporary Parking on Unpaved Surfaces Guidance Document")
- P  C Apply and maintain dust suppressants other than water.

**Other Unpaved Areas Not Associated With Parking:**  NA

- P  C Apply water before, during & after event.  
Specify method of applying water (i.e. water truck, fire hose, etc.):
- P  C Apply and maintain a dust free cover (see "Dust Control for Special Events/Temporary Parking on Unpaved Surfaces Guidance Document")
- P  C Apply and maintain dust suppressants other than water.

**\*Required\* Stabilization AFTER the Event (Choose at least One)**

- Apply water creating a crust that is resistant to wind erosion (*note: conditions must be brought back to their original condition, before disturbance*).  
Specify method of applying water (i.e. water truck, fire hose, etc.):
- Apply and maintain a dust free cover (see "Dust Control for Special Events/Temporary Parking on Unpaved Surfaces Guidance Document")
- Apply and maintain dust suppressants other than water.
- Do one of the above *and* erect a fence.
- Do one of the above *and* post no trespassing signs.

Please note that approval of this dust control plan does not exempt the owner/operator of a dust generating special event from violations issued by the Maricopa County Air Quality Department. This Dust Control Plan is meant to be a guide for event organizers and operators to minimize the generation of windblown dust.

It is advisable to contact Maricopa County Air Quality for additional assistance in controlling dust during special events.

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**Temporary Parking on an Unpaved Surface Dust Control Plan**  There will be no parking on unpaved surfaces (skip to last page).

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**Unpaved Pathways Used for Vehicle Travel:**  NA

- P  C Apply water before, during & after event.

Specify method of applying water (i.e. water truck, fire hose, etc.):

- P  C Apply and maintain a dust free cover (see "Dust Control for Special Events/Temporary Parking on Unpaved Surfaces Guidance Document")
- P  C Apply and maintain dust suppressants other than water.

**Unpaved Areas Used for Parking:**  NA

- P  C Apply water before, during & after event.

Specify method of applying water (i.e. water truck, fire hose, etc.):

- P  C Apply and maintain a dust free cover (see "Dust Control for Special Events/Temporary Parking on Unpaved Surfaces Guidance Document")
- P  C Apply and maintain dust suppressants other than water.

**\*Required\* Stabilization AFTER the Event (Choose at least One)**

- Apply water creating a crust that is resistant to wind erosion (*note: conditions must be brought back to their original condition. before disturbance*).

Specify method of applying water (i.e. water truck, fire hose, etc.):

- Apply and maintain a dust free cover (see "Dust Control for Special Events/Temporary Parking on Unpaved Surfaces Guidance Document")
- Apply and maintain dust suppressants other than water.
- Do one of the above *and* erect a fence.
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**Control Of Track-Out Onto Pavement**

*Note: Track-out can occur when vehicles travel over unpaved surfaces. This can cause dust to become airborne. Event organizers are required to take measures to prevent track-out and to cleanup any track-out that does occur at the end of the event or on a daily basis if the event goes more than one day. Any track-out that exceeds 25 linear feet needs to be cleaned up immediately.*

**Method For Controlling Track-Out During Event *\*Suggested\****

- Install a gravel pad (see Maricopa County Air Quality Rule 310 for specifications).
- Install a "grizzly" or rumble grate at all exists (see Maricopa County Rule 310 for specifications).
- Restrict access to only designated areas using tape, barricades, etc.

**Method For Cleaning Track-Out *During Event \*At Least One Required\****

- Assign someone to be a "lookout" for track-out and provide them with a broom to sweep up any dirt.
- Contract with a street sweeping company to be present during the event.
- Contract with a street sweeping company to routinely sweep during the event.
- Other (please describe):

**Method For Cleaning Track-Out *After Event \*At Least One Required\****

- Contract with a street sweeping company to remove all track-out.
- Use push brooms to manually remove all track-out.
- Other (please describe):

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**Site Diagram**

*Please provide a drawing of the site showing:*

- *Nearest major cross streets with North arrow;*
- *Site boundaries;*
- *Locations of Special Event;*
- *Locations of Temporary Parking on Unpaved Surfaces;*
- *Locations of entrances & exits;*
- *Any other applicable information.*



**Certification:**

I certify that I am familiar with the Special Event activities and/or Temporary Parking on Unpaved Surfaces presented in this application and agree to conduct all activities in compliance with the attached dust control plan, Gilbert dust control ordinances, and all applicable environmental rules and regulations.

Name:  Title:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

**IMPORTANT: A copy of all COMPLETE dust control plans must be submitted to Maricopa County Air Quality Department via fax at 602-503-6179.**

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