



CLEAR *the* AIR SPOKANE

A Message from the Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority

Unpaved Roads, Dust & Air Quality

Why the concern over dust?

Dust -- or particulate matter--is an air quality concern in Spokane, especially during the dry summer months. If not controlled, dust can be both a public health hazard and a public nuisance. When inhaled, fine dust particles travel deep into the lungs, increasing breathing problems, damaging lung tissue, and aggravating existing health problems. Those at highest risk of negative health impacts are those with respiratory conditions, the elderly and the young. Children are at risk because their lungs are still developing, and they breathe 50% more air per pound of body weight than adults.

Where does all the dust come from?

In the Spokane area, most of the dust pollution comes from a combination of activities, including:

- Driving on paved roads before winter traction sand is cleaned up
- Driving on unpaved roads and parking lots
- Dirt and mud tracked onto clean roadways (from dirt roads, construction sites, dirt alleys, etc)
- Construction and demolition activities
- Dirt, gravel and other types of storage piles
- Handling and transfer of materials
- Agricultural/farming activities

What can be done to reduce dust?

- Avoid travel on unpaved roads whenever feasible. Use an alternate route to reach your destination.
- If you have to drive on an unpaved road, keep your speed down. Driving slowly on an unpaved road will dramatically reduce the amount of dust emissions.



Dust pollution caused by a motorist traveling on an unpaved road.

- Hire a private contractor, who is approved by the city or county, to apply a dust suppressant to your road (often referred to as road "oiling" although it isn't oil that is applied.)
- Establish a local or road improvement district with your neighbors, to help fund part of the paving project. For more information, contact:

City : 625-6300

County: 477-3600

What can be done to reduce dust?

- Keep your vehicle in the driving lane and off the shoulder of the road where dirt and debris accumulate.
- Don't use a leaf blower to clean dirt/debris from sidewalks, parking lots, or driveways. Blowing this into the air doesn't solve the problem, it just moves it around. Use a broom and dustpan instead!
- When hauling debris, keep the load covered at all times.



Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority (SCAPCA)

www.scapca.org
477-4727