

DUST CONTROL HANDBOOK

PURPOSE:

To control, prevent, prohibit and regulate excessive dust or smoke emissions to protect the health, safety and general welfare of residents within Churchill County, Nevada.

Any person engaged in activities that disturb the soil causing dust emissions or in burning activities that cause smoke emissions shall take all reasonable precautions to prevent excessive emissions into the atmosphere that may be injurious to health and safety.



OPACITY AND DURATION

Opacity means the degree in which the visible emissions obscure the view of background objects.



The opacity and duration of smoke/dust plume and properties affected by it determine if excessive emissions of dust or smoke may be injurious to health. The Code Enforcement Officer will determine excessive emissions.

DEFINITIONS:

“Air Pollution” means the presence in the outdoor atmosphere of one or more air contaminants or any combination thereof, including and without limitation, fugitive dust and sand in such quantity and duration as may cause:

1. Injury to human health or welfare and to animal, plant life, or property.
2. Limited visibility or interference with scenic, aesthetic and historic values of the County; and
3. Interference with the enjoyment of life or property.

“Disturbed Area” means a portion of the earth’s surface (or material placed thereon) that has been physically moved, uncovered, or destabilized thereby increasing the potential for the emission of fugitive dust.

“Person” means the United States of America, the State of Nevada, any political subdivision of the State of Nevada, any individual, group of individuals, partnership, firm, company, corporation, association, trust, estate, political subdivision, administrative agency, public or quasi-public corporation, or other legal entity.

ACTIVITIES REQUIRING A COUNTY DUST CONTROL PERMIT:

1. Any construction activity that disturbs five (5) acres or more will require a Surface Area Disturbance Permit (SADP) from the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP).
2. Residential and commercial construction disturbing or clearing one acre (1) or more.
3. Demolition of any commercial or residential structure by other than manual means.

Activities of any federal- or Nevada-based governmental or quasi-governmental entity acting on their own behalf on their own land are exempt from obtaining a Churchill County Dust Permit. Examples include: property owned by the United States Navy, Naval Air Station Fallon and its bombing ranges, the incorporated City of Fallon, and property designated as the Tribal lands of the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe.



Agricultural operations involving customarily accepted practices on agricultural lands are not public nuisances as defined in Chapter 8 of the Churchill County code.

BEST PRACTICAL METHODS:

1. Dust palliatives and other synthetic particulate suppressants (examples: calcium chloride and polyacrymide [PAM]).
2. Watering - applying water from a truck or other portable spray system.
3. Fencing and other artificial wind barriers aligned perpendicular to the wind direction: continuous board fence, burlap fence, snow fencing, and hay bales.
4. Windbreaks placed perpendicular to the wind direction.
5. Revegetation on previously tilled soils where water rights are removed, which should be performed prior to transfer of the water. Low-water-use landscaping should be installed on cleared building lots.
6. Ground covers:
 - a. Gravel, concrete, recycled-road base, caliche, or other similar material that should be applied at least four inches deep with an aggregate of one inch or larger in diameter.
 - b. Crop residues - If standing stubble is used, it should be six inches in height or more.
 - c. Manure (caution should be taken near water sources).
 - d. Mulch application of plant residue or other material that is not produced on site (examples: wood chips, bark, shavings, saw dust, and straw).
7. Access restriction with physical obstruction such as gates, fencing, posts, trees, or other physical obstructions, all with "No Trespassing" signs.
8. Cessation of operations or limiting activity during a high-wind event.
9. Surface roughening - the manipulation of a soil surface to produce or maintain clods that helps disrupt the erosive force of the wind.
10. Reduce vehicle speed.
11. Track-out control system (a device to remove mud or soil from a vehicle before the vehicle enters a paved public road).

TIPS FOR CONTROLLING EXCESSIVE EMISSIONS:

1. Building a Home - The native vegetation and weeds on a lot help to reduce dust emissions.



Avoid clearing the whole lot. Only remove vegetation where the foot-print of the building will be.

2. Grading and Other Development - Grading and installation of infrastructure in a development should be done with as little disturbance as possible.

Where possible, do not clear cut! Retain trees and some vegetation. If clear cutting is unavoidable, always have a water truck on site. Do no grade on windy days.

3. Recreational Activities - Enjoy your quads! We have many miles of desert to enjoy!

On windy days avoid riding quads or dragging your arena in areas close to residences where dust blows onto adjoining property.

4. Burning - Yard debris and non-toxic materials may be burned if done in a responsible manner.

Burn early in the day and when there is no wind. If the wind picks up, cease burning and apply water. DO NOT allow your smoke to travel and engulf your neighbor's house or property.

5. Agriculture and Livestock Production - Excessive dust emissions that may be injurious to health are often the result of poor husbandry and farming practices.



Don't overgraze or exceed the carrying capacity of your land. Don't cease irrigation and then remove all vegetation.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF EXCESSIVE EMISSIONS?



Be mindful of your neighbors.

Be desert smart!

For further information on best practices or plant information or to obtain a copy of “A Guide to the Control of Windblown Dust on Agricultural Lands” visit the following agency or website:

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

111 Sheckler Rd
Fallon, NV 89406
775-423-5124
www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (plant information)

111 Sheckler Rd
Fallon, NV 89406
775-423-5121
www.unce.unr.edu

TO OBTAIN A CHURCHILL COUNTY DUST PERMIT CONTACT:

Churchill County Planning Department

155 N Taylor St, Suite 194
Fallon, NV 89406
775-423-7627
www.churchillcounty.org



***You are able to burn in your burn barrel.
You cannot burn toxic materials.***

Don't allow your smoke or dust to engulf your neighbors.

***Consider bagging your leaves and hauling them to the landfill, or
create a compost pile.***