



# Dust Control Requirements

## Rule in Effect: Controls Dust from Construction and Demolition

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District) Rule 345, *Control of Fugitive Dust from Construction and Demolition Activities*, establishes new limits on the generation of visible dust emissions at demolition and construction sites. This rule reinforces other measures currently in place (see right panel).

This rule applies to any activity associated with construction or demolition of a structure or structures.

### Requirements and Standards

- \* **Visible Fugitive Dust beyond the Property Line**  
Prohibits the discharge into the atmosphere beyond the property line of visible dust emissions of 20 percent opacity or greater for more than 3 minutes in any 60 minute period.
- \* **Truck Hauling**  
Prescribes utilizing at least one dust prevention technique including: tarps or cargo covering, maintaining 6 inches of freeboard, bulk material treatment, or other effective measure.
- \* **Track-Out/Carry-Out**  
Prescribes controlling visible roadway dust with the use of track-out grates of gravel beds, wheel-washing, soil binders, soil stabilizers and other measures, and by removing visible dust at the end of the day or 24-hour period.
- \* **Demolition**  
Prescribes work practice standards during demolition which include wetting, inward demolition toward the building pad, and laying roof and walls inward.



## Other Rules and Requirements

Projects must also comply with the following District and County rules:

### District Rule 302 *Visible Emissions*

This rule sets limits for the amount of visible emissions, measured in terms of “percent opacity,” observed “from any single source of emission”. The rule limits the opacity to 20 percent, which is the equivalent of No. 1 on the Ringelmann Chart. *For more specifics, refer to District Rule 302.*

### District Rule 303 *Nuisance*

This rule prohibits discharges of air contaminants in violation of Section 41700 of the Health and Safety Code “which cause injury, detriment, nuisance or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public...”

### County of Santa Barbara Grading Ordinance

The County of Santa Barbara's Grading Ordinance requires standard dust control measures to be implemented for any discretionary project involving earth-moving activities. Control Measures are stipulated as project approval conditions in land use permits.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why are rules developed?

The District develops, adopts, and enforces rules to control air pollution from stationary sources in order to protect public health and attain or maintain air quality standards. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state Air Resources Board have issued health-based standards for levels of particles less than 10 microns in diameter ( $PM_{10}$ ) and particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter ( $PM_{2.5}$ ). Santa Barbara County air meets the federal  $PM_{10}$  standard, but does not meet the state  $PM_{10}$  standard.

### Why was Rule 345 developed?

Senate Bill 656 (2003) called on air districts to implement measures to reduce public exposure to inhalable particulate matter (PM). Rule 345 fulfills the District's SB656 commitment to adopt fugitive dust control measures addressing construction and demolition projects.

### Why does dust need to be controlled?

Fine particles in our air can affect our hearts and lungs. These particles vary greatly in shape, size, and chemical composition, and can be made up of different materials such as metals, soot, soil and dust. Higher levels of PM in the air can cause a range of symptoms, including coughing and wheezing, worsening of asthma symptoms, decreased lung function, airway inflammation, and heart rate variability, and can cause an increased incidence of heart attacks.

## Summary of Standard Dust Control Measures

The District generally recommends the following measures during construction or demolition activities:

- \* Use water trucks or sprinkler systems to keep areas of vehicle movement damp to prevent dust from leaving the site.
- \* Minimize amount of disturbed area and reduce on-site vehicle speeds to 15 miles per hour or less.
- \* For fill material, cover, keep moist, or treat soil stock piled for more than two days, and tarp trucks transporting fill material to and from the site.
- \* Install gravel pads at access points to prevent tracking of mud onto public roads.
- \* After clearing, grading, earth moving or excavation is completed, treat the disturbed area by watering, re-vegetating, or by spreading soil binders until the area is paved or otherwise developed.
- \* Designate a person or persons to monitor the dust control program and to order increased watering, as necessary, to prevent transport of dust offsite.

## You Can Learn More...

Visit our website at [www.OurAir.org/rules/rules.htm](http://www.OurAir.org/rules/rules.htm) to view District Rules and download individual rules or the entire Rulebook. Contact us at 805-961-8800 or [rules@sbcapcd.org](mailto:rules@sbcapcd.org) with questions or to request the District Rulebook on CD.