



Clark County Department of Air Quality

**Exceptional Event Documentation for the
May 10, 2012, PM₁₀ Transported Dust
Exceedance Event**

Appendix A



May 31, 2013

Appendix A

Clark County, Nevada

News & Media Coverage

**Attachments 1 – 8 News Media Coverage
for Dust Transport Event on May 10, 2012**

Appendix A

News & Media Coverage

**Attachments 1 – 8 News Media Coverage,
Newspaper Articles, Television News Coverage
& Video Links**

Hazy skies over Vegas valley prompt health warning



[Steve Marcus](#)

A brown haze obscures the view of Strip casinos in this photo from I-215 and Windmill Parkway Thursday, May 10, 2012.



Staff and Wire Reports

Published Thursday, May 10, 2012 | 11 a.m.

Updated Thursday, May 10, 2012 | 2:11 p.m.

[Christopher DeVargas](#)

The Las Vegas Strip disappears underneath a brown haze that covers the valley on Thursday, May 10, 2012.

Clark County officials have issued an air quality alert, advising people — especially those prone to respiratory problems — to stay indoors and away from an unhealthy layer of haze hanging in the still air over the Las Vegas Valley.

Air Quality Engineering Manager Mike Sword says smoke from a wildfire and dust from a storm last night in Arizona may be to blame for the debris over Boulder City and Las Vegas.

His office hasn't yet identified the exact cause behind the haze, which was first detected about 1 a.m. Thursday.

Authorities rate Boulder City air conditions as hazardous, meaning all residents are likely to be affected by the haze.

Under the alert, children, seniors and people with chronic respiratory problems are urged to stay indoors. For people without respiratory problems, it is safe to go outside, officials said, but the air quality could trigger allergy-like symptoms in some.

For those looking to minimize the impact of the poor air quality, officials suggest limiting outdoor exertion, keeping windows closed and changing indoor air filters if they are dirty.

To view a complete air quality forecast, visit the [county's website](#).

Read more: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2012/may/10/nv-hazy-skies-vegas-1st-ld/#ixzz2Z8EKTjKm>

Hazy skies over Vegas valley prompt health warning - Las Vegas Sun News

Las Vegas Sun

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To view a complete air quality forecast, visit the [county's website](#).

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Posted **May 10, 2012 - 10:44am**

Hazy skies prompt alert in valley





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By Henry Brean LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Air quality officials aren't using the H word, but they now blame a dust storm in southeastern Arizona for the ugly, brown air that blanketed Southern Nevada on Thursday.

It wasn't a haboob per se, but the skies over the Las Vegas Valley and the Boulder City area filled with enough dust to prompt a pollution alert from the Clark County Department of Air Quality.

Department officials said unhealthy levels of particulate pollution were detected in the early afternoon, and they urged children, seniors and people with chronic respiratory problems to stay indoors.

A haboob, which in Arabic means "strong wind," is a type of intense dust storm pushed outward by the leading edge of a thunderstorm as it collapses.

The phenomenon is fairly common in the deserts of Arizona but wasn't widely referred to as a haboob until recently, when the term was popularized by several dramatic dust storms in the Phoenix area.

Tucson and other parts of southeastern Arizona were hit by a dust storm of their own on Wednesday afternoon. Then, shortly after midnight, air monitors in the Boulder City area began to register a sharp rise in airborne particulates.

By Thursday morning, pollution levels were starting to reach unhealthy levels in Boulder City and the Las Vegas Valley.

The haze significantly reduced visibility across the valley, obscuring mountains and dimming or even erasing the resorts on the Strip behind a brown cloud. After lingering for most of the day, it was pushed out by the wind Thursday evening.

Mike Sword, air quality engineering manager for the county, said weather mapping strongly suggests the cloud came from southeastern Arizona. Readings from air monitors back that conclusion, he said, because the haze appeared to contain mostly dust, not the finer particles carried in the smoke from wildfires.

Particulate pollution can aggravate respiratory diseases. Symptoms of exposure may include coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath.

Air quality compliance officer Jack Bingham was out working in the haze Thursday morning.

Appendix A, Attachment 2

"This is not a day when you want to be driving around in an air quality truck," he said. "People look at you and roll down their windows at stop signs to talk to you about what's going on."

Contact reporter Henry Brean at hbrean@reviewjournal.com or 702-383-0350.

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Air Quality Alert remains in effect

Posted: May 10, 2012 3:50 PM PDT
Updated: May 24, 2012 4:03 PM PDT

Submitted By Les Krifaton, Reporter - [email](#)

LAS VEGAS (FOX5) - The Las Vegas skyline looked more like Los Angeles today as smoke and dust settled over the entire Valley.

Where it came from is anyone's guess.

"The National Weather Service put out that the dust came from Arizona but the current models don't show that the flow came from Arizona, rather from the Laughlin-Bullhead area," said Clark County Air Quality Meteorologist Philip Wiker.

A call down to the Laughlin-Bullhead fire department reported no significant fires in the area.

Wiker said while the models suggest the airflow is coming from a different area now, that doesn't mean it's not from Arizona.

"Models are not always right. I could run the program tomorrow do a trajectory and it might actually show Arizona," he said.

The haze that blanketed the city surprised some visitors.

"I thought I would have a good view of the mountains but its not what I thought," said Tiffany Green from Florida.

Wiker said the upper level winds should begin to push the dust and smoke out of our area by tomorrow.

"This is particulate matter. That's the criteria pollutant we monitor for and it does have health effects on individuals. Regardless of what actually caused this at this time people need to be concerned if they have respiratory issues," he said

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In The News

by Taboola



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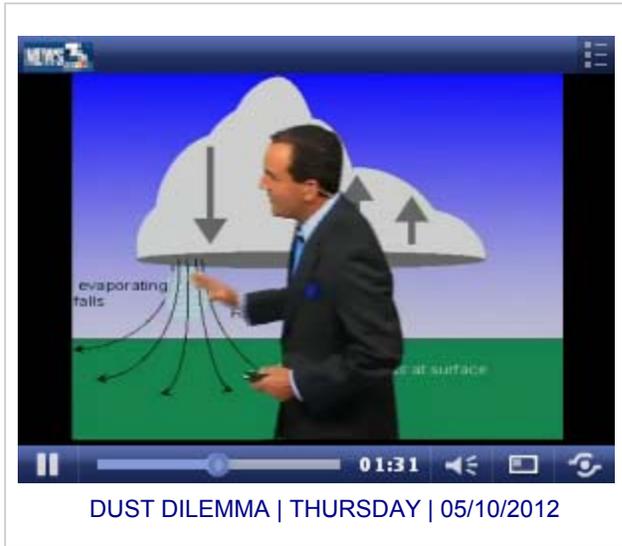


Ex-cop has Vegas neighborhood on edge



Former officer says Strip shooting suspect's days

Appendix A, Attachment 4 Air advisory for dust, wildfire smoke revised to alert status



Reported

by: Kevin Janison

Email: kjanison@mynews3.com

Reported by: Denise Rosch

Published: 5/10 3:39 pm

Updated: 5/10 4:15 pm

LAS VEGAS -- Clark County Department of Air Quality officials have revised today's advisory for smoke and dust to an air quality alert, based on monitoring high levels of fine particulates in Boulder City and the Las Vegas Valley. The exact cause of the elevated levels is unknown. Possible impacts could be from wildfire smoke and dust storms transported from Arizona.

At this time, unhealthy levels of dust/smoke are occurring in the Boulder City and Las Vegas Valley areas. Under these alert conditions, children, seniors and people with chronic respiratory problems, in particular, are urged to stay indoors.

Air Quality officials will continue to monitor conditions and will post an update on the forecast page of the DAQ website when unhealthy levels cease. A link to the forecast page is located on the front page of Clark County's website at www.ClarkCountyNV.gov.

Related Links

[Hazy skies over Vegas valley prompt health warning](#)

PM-10 stands for particulate matter measuring 10 microns or less. PM-2.5 identifies particles smaller than 2.5 micrometers. Both types of particles can be a component of smoke and dust and can aggravate respiratory diseases. Symptoms of exposure may include coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath.

Health and air quality officials suggest the following tips if you're concerned about exposure to unhealthy air:

- If you work outdoors, consider wearing a painter's mask or surgical mask. This will help reduce your exposure to dust and particulates.
- Limit outdoor exertion. Exercise, for example, makes you breathe heavier and increases the amount of particulates you're likely to inhale.
- Keep windows closed. Run your air conditioner inside your house and car. Your air conditioner filters out dust and particulates.
- Consider changing your indoor air filters if they are dirty.
- Use your prescription allergy medication or over-the-counter hay fever or sinus medications if you experience symptoms of itchy eyes, a runny nose or congestion.



Dust caused by storms in Phoenix - Kingman Daily Miner - Kingman, Arizona



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May 16, 2012

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5/11/2012 6:00:00 AM

Dust caused by storms in Phoenix

'Outflow boundary' should settle or move out of area by today



Erin Taylor Miner Staff Reporter



JC AMBERLYN/Miner

KINGMAN - That hazy shade of late spring Thursday was caused by thunderstorms in Phoenix, according to the National Weather Service.

Meteorologist Larry Jensen out of Las Vegas said that the storms caused what is referred to as an "outflow boundary," which is the boundary separating air cooled by a storm, or the outflow, from the surrounding air. The outflow can travel hundreds of miles from its origin, picking up with it the dust that reduced visibility in northwest Arizona and parts of southern Nevada.

haze that settled in Kingman Thursday. Photo taken from the Cerbat Mountains area south of Bullhead Mountain.

Jensen said he expects the dust to settle or move out of the area by today, although it could stick around as late as Saturday.

He added that the weekend forecast includes mostly sunny skies, with temperatures reaching right around 90 degrees.

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Weather forecast: currently 80°F Clear, tomorrow High 93°F Low 64°F. Forecast provided by wunderground.com.



Reader Comments

Posted: Sunday, May 13, 2012

Article comment by: You ain't seen NOTHING Yet!

Just wait till the City of Kingman, in it's superior wisdom (idiotic 'money saving idea') find the money to 'sweep' from another fund (meant for something different altogether) to start the idiotic, waste of time and money, useless, short sighted 'chip sealing' on the streets of Kingman again!

Posted: Sunday, May 13, 2012

Article comment by: health problem

I would like to know why the dust in Golden Valley is not against the law. How many years has it been since we have had some roads paved. Come on give the Valley a break and do something about the dust and the peoples health. We need paved streets and some more stores like Walmart and Costco.

Posted: Saturday, May 12, 2012

Article comment by: Frank Lee Speaking

@jst me

RIATA DENTAL advertisement featuring a child's photo and a cartoon tooth character. Text includes: IV Sedation (Sleeping), Endodontics • Extractions, 1101 Riata Valley Rd., (928) 692-9394.

News Release

Contact: Stacey Welling
Phone: (702) 455-3201
Email: stac@ClarkCountyNV.gov
Thursday, May 10, 2012

Air Quality Advisory for Dust, Wildfire Smoke Revised to Alert Status

Clark County Department of Air Quality officials have revised today's advisory for smoke and dust to an air quality alert, based on monitoring high levels of fine particulates in Boulder City and the Las Vegas Valley. The exact cause of the elevated levels is unknown. Possible impacts could be from wildfire smoke and dust storms transported from Arizona.

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- Consider changing your indoor air filters if they are dirty.
- Use your prescription allergy medication or over-the-counter hay fever or sinus medications if you experience symptoms of itchy eyes, a runny nose or congestion

###

Clark County is a dynamic and innovative organization dedicated to providing top-quality service with integrity, respect and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the nation's 14th-largest county and provides extensive regional services to more than 2 million citizens and 42 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 8th-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The County also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to almost 900,000 residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development.



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News

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Arizona dust storm might have brought Las Vegas Valley haze

BY HENRY BREAN
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Posted: May 10, 2012

1

0

A dust storm that swept through southern Arizona, on Wednesday may be to blame for the brown haze hanging over Southern Nevada.

Levels of fine particulates reached unhealthy levels in the Las Vegas Valley and hazardous levels in the Boulder City area, according to a post on the Clark County Department of Air Quality's website at about 9 a.m.

Department officials still don't know the exact source of the haze, but dust and wildfire smoke from Arizona are the likely culprits.

Fine particulate pollution can be a component of smoke and dust and can aggravate respiratory diseases. Symptoms of exposure may include coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath.

Under these advisory conditions, health officials urge children, seniors and people with chronic respiratory problems to stay indoors.

Contact reporter Henry Brean at hbrean@reviewjournal.com or 702-383-0350.

Trending topics: Henry Brean | Las Vegas | haze | smoke | Arizona dust storm | air pollution | hazardous

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- Dow on its way to breaking six-day losing streak
- Russian jet crash puts Indonesian sales in limbo
- With Apple in, Dow would have set record long ago

Arizona dust storm might have brought Las Vegas Valley haze

BY HENRY BREAN
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

Posted: May 10, 2012 | 10:44 a.m.

Updated: May 10, 2012 | 12:00 p.m.

Air quality officials don't yet know the source of the brown haze hanging over Southern Nevada, but they expect it to lift by Thursday afternoon as winds pick up from the southwest.

"That's what we're looking for: a nice little push to clear all this out," said Clark County meteorologist Phillip Wiker.

Levels of fine particulates began to rise around midnight. They reached unhealthy levels in the Las Vegas Valley and even worse - potentially hazardous levels - in the Boulder City area by Thursday morning, Wiker said.

The Clark County Department of Air Quality has issued a health advisory for fine particulate pollution, which can be caused by smoke and dust.

Department officials still don't know the exact source of the haze, but a dust storm that swept Tucson, Ariz., Wednesday and smoke from wildfires are possible culprits.

Wiker said this one is a head scratcher so far. "The meteorology doesn't work for Arizona," he said, but further analysis may yet show that the haze blew in from the Grand Canyon State.

Fine particulate pollution can aggravate respiratory diseases. Symptoms of exposure may include coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath.

Under these advisory conditions, health officials urge children, seniors and people with chronic respiratory problems to stay indoors.

The haze significantly reduced visibility across the valley, obscuring mountains and dimming or even erasing the resorts on the Strip behind a brown fog.

"This is not a day when you want to be driving around in an air quality truck," joked Jack Bingham, an air quality compliance officer for the county. "People look at you and roll down their windows at stop signs to talk to you about what's going on."

Contact reporter Henry Brean at hbrean@reviewjournal.com or 702-383-0350.

Henry Brean

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/about/print/rjstaff.html>

Find this article at:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/arizona-dust-storm-might-have-brought-las-vegas-valley-haze-150977735.html>

Uncheck the box to remove the list of links referenced in the article.

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Appendix A, Attachment 8

Air Quality News Video Links for the May 10, 2012 Transport Dust Event

1. *HAZY SKIES IN LAS VEGAS*, Channel 13, Action News May 10, 2012, 6:01 PM
“The sky is hazy today over the Las Vegas valley.” News Clip Link:
<http://www.ktnv.com/multimedia/videos/?bctid=1632523398001>

2. *AIR QUALITY*, Velez, 5/11/2012 KSNV Las Vegas 9:33 AM EST
“It's been a rough 24 hours for just about everyone, thanks to the thick haze that covered the valley. It made Las Vegas look more like Los Angeles, and it made people feel pretty bad.”
News Clip Link:
http://www.clipsyndicate.com/video/playlist/25504/3487087?cpt=3&title=top_video&wpid=10913

3. *HOVERING HAZE*, Marissa Mike, 5/10/2012 KSNV Las Vegas 9:02 PM EST
“News 3's Marissa Mike is on the roof for a story on the hazy skies in Las Vegas.” News Clip Link:
http://www.clipsyndicate.com/video/playlist/25504/3487225?cpt=3&title=top_video&wpid=10913

4. *AIR QUALITY CONCERN*, Munoz, Thursday 5/10/2012 KSNV Las Vegas 2:59 PM EST
“Clark County officials are telling people to stay indoors and away from an unhealthy layer of haze hanging in the still air over the Las Vegas valley.” News Clip Link:
http://www.clipsyndicate.com/video/playlist/25504/3484760?cpt=3&title=top_video&wpid=10913