

Prescribed Fire and Smoke Information

1. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) monitors air quality and determines whether or not it will be a good day for smoke dispersion. Prescribed burns conducted on U.S. Forest Service lands are approved through ADEQ before ignition begins. Although smoke from prescribed fire can still be noticeable, it is usually for a shorter time and considerably less smoke than most wildfires produce.
2. A team of meteorologists at ADEQ examine the weather conditions to determine smoke dispersion, potential impacts, and other variables for each prescribed burn to approve or disapprove the given burn.
3. To view a listing of approved daily burns that are permitted by ADEQ (or acknowledged by ADEQ in the case of tribes) visit <http://smoke.azdeq.gov>
4. Residents can view air quality across the state using ADEQ's Portable Particulate Monitor network at www.phoenixvis.net/PPMmain.aspx.
5. Apache County residents with health concerns may contact the Apache County Public Health Services District in St. Johns at 928-337-7607.
6. Navajo County residents may contact Navajo County Public Health Services at 928-524-4750 in Holbrook or 928-532-6050 in Show Low.
7. ADEQ welcomes and appreciates information/concerns from the public regarding air quality conditions observed on the ground. The online complaint form is a straight-forward way for residents to voice their concerns. Complaints are most helpful and effective when they include detailed information about smoke, including times when the smoke impacts began, and ended (if applicable).
 - ADEQ's online complaint form: <http://legacy.azdeq.gov/function/compliance/complaint.html>
8. ADEQ released several publications last year about wildfires and prescribed fires. These reports detail both types of fires and showcase ADEQ's roles. The reports can be viewed at www.static.azdeq.gov/aqd/aqcode2_5.pdf and www.static.azdeq.gov/aqd/aqcode2_9.pdf
9. ADEQ and the U.S. Forest Service do not have jurisdiction over Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Fort Apache has been doing a large number of burns this fall due to continued warm and dry conditions, completing almost 38,000 acres. The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests have completed prescribed burning on around 6,000 acres. Visit http://legacy.azdeq.gov/environ/air/ozone/smoke_prefix.htm to see a complete list of the agencies ADEQ does and does not have jurisdiction over.