Dust Storms

Public Safety Response to Adverse Weather Conditions
Definition of Dust Storm:

A meteorological phenomenon common in arid and semi-arid regions that arise when strong winds blow loose sand and dirt from a dry surface area.
Quick Facts:

• Each year, one to three storms will affect the phoenix area, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA, 2013).

• According to NOAA, in the last 10 years, more than 100 dust storms were reported in the state of Arizona (NOAA, 2013).

• In Arizona, from 2008-2013, dust has been involved in 566 collisions, 14 fatalities, and 394 injuries (ADOT, 2013).
Traffic Operations Center’s Function

- Reduce traffic congestion and secondary collisions
- Monitor active incidents and mobilize effective responses faster
- Camera Verification of incidents
- Reduce response times of first responders
- DPS CAD access
- Timely updates to police, fire and other first responders
- Point of Contact (First Responders, Media, Public)
DPS Strategies to mitigate the inherent dangers of dust storms:

• Notify Support Agencies
  ✓ ADOT (TOC, ALERT)
  ✓ Local Law Enforcement
  ✓ Fire
  ✓ EMS

• Rolling Traffic Breaks
• Class A or B Roadblocks
  ✓ Traffic Control
  ✓ Full or Partial Road Closures
Public Awareness – Media Resources

- Dynamic Messaging Boards
- Press Releases
  - Radio
  - Television
- AZDOT.gov and AZ511.gov
- Social Media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook)
  - DPS and ADOT PIO’s
Motoring Public’s Response:

1. **DO NOT** enter a dust storm!
2. Pull off the pavement as far as possible and turn off lights.
3. Go slow, with lights and sound horn periodically.
4. **DO NOT** stop in the roadway!
5. Check local media to determine safe travel routes.
   (Radio, Internet, Weather Apps, 511, etc.)
Contact Information

Sergeant John Paul Cartier
Officer Robb Brown
Officer Daniel Williams

DPS TOC Office #602-712-7688

Traffic Operations Center
Location
2302 West Durango Street Phoenix, Arizona

Control Room Telephone
602-257-1563

DPS Control Room Console
602-712-6217

PIO Control Room Desk
602-712-6512

Social Media Contacts

Twitter Account: Twitter.com @Arizona DOT
Facebook: Search Arizona Department of Transportation or Facebook.com/AZDOT
www.AZDOT.GOV
www.AZ511.gov
Questions?