

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release - Attention Editor

DUST ADVISORY IN EFFECT FOR VERNON

(March 1st, 2010 – Vernon) The Ministry of Environment has issued a Dust Advisory for Vernon because of high concentrations of dust that are expected to persist until the weather changes.

Avoid strenuous outdoor activities. Staying indoors with windows and doors closed helps to reduce exposure

Exposure is particularly a concern for infants, the elderly and those who have underlying medical conditions such as breathing or lung conditions, hay fever, asthma or persons who react strongly to dust. If you are experiencing symptoms such as continuing eye or throat irritation, chest discomfort, shortness of breath, cough or wheeze, follow the advice of your health care provider.

Tips to reduce your personal health risk:

- Avoid roads with heavy vehicle traffic.
- If you stay indoors, keep windows and doors closed and reduce indoor sources of pollution, such as smoking, vacuuming and use of wood stoves.
- Continue to control medical conditions such as asthma, hay fever and chronic respiratory disease. If symptoms continue to be bothersome, seek medical attention.
- Maintaining good overall health is a good way to prevent health effects resulting from short-term exposure to air pollution.

Additional Information:

- This advisory has been triggered by high concentrations of dust, measured as “PM10”, or particles 10 micrometres or smaller in diameter.
- Current PM10 concentrations are 67 micrograms per cubic metre and exceed the provincial objective of 50 micrograms per cubic metre, averaged over 24 hours. This episode is expected to continue until there is a change in weather patterns.
- The current dusty conditions are caused by road traffic stirring up winter traction materials that have accumulated on roadways over the past winter.

Contact: Ralph Adams, Air Quality Meteorologist, Ministry of Environment
Phone: 250-371-6279