



# Municipality of Anchorage

Suzanne LaFrance, Mayor

--- Anchorage Health Department ---

March 7, 2025

Dear Property Owner, Property Manager or Sweeping Contractor,

Another spring break-up, dust season is upon us, and **we seek everyone's help to avoid careless dry sweeping which creates excessive airborne dust.** Property managers, lawn crews and citizens are eager to remove the accumulated rock and sediments from parking lots, driveways and landscaping. However, it is necessary to pre-wet surfaces prior to sweeping and avoid sweeping dry sediments with leaf blowers to prevent excessive airborne dust.

During breakup season in Anchorage (mid-March through April) elevated concentration of airborne dust can approach or exceed federal air quality standards, causing breathing distress for infants, children, the elderly, and individuals who suffer from asthma and many other types of lung and heart ailments. As someone who may own or manage properties requiring spring cleanup, or as someone involved in the commercial sweeping business, we ask you to ensure that clean-up at your properties and projects occurs in a manner that effectively controls the creation of airborne dust.

On the back of this letter are municipal guidelines for street sweeping and cleanup operations. These are intended to minimize the amount of dust generated during sweeping operations.

**Before mechanical sweeping is performed, the area must be adequately pre-wetted to prevent the creation of airborne dust. The use of leaf blowers for dry sweeping of particulate-laden debris is prohibited by Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) 15.30.060.**

If you are a sweeping contractor, please make sure that everyone in your work crew is aware and abides by these guidelines. If you are a property owner or manager, please ensure that your sweeping contractor is aware of these guidelines and follows them, including the thorough wetting of sediments prior to mechanical sweeping. Any failure to effectively control the creation of airborne dust during mechanical sweeping is a violation of municipal code and could result in a citation and fine.

We request that all involved in parking lot sweeping and grounds upkeep assist us in our efforts to prevent creation of airborne dust and help maintain the best possible air quality conditions for all who work and live within the Municipality of Anchorage.

Please call or e-mail me if you have questions. Thank you.

Mourad A. Dawoud  
Air Quality Specialist  
Anchorage Health Department  
825 L ST., Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99501  
mourad.dawoud@anchorageak.gov  
Office: 907-343-4728

## **DUST CONTROL GUIDELINES FOR SWEEPING OPERATIONS**

Department of Health and Human Services, Revised March 23, 2018

Under AMC 15.30.060 D, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services shall publish guidelines requiring the reasonable control of particulate or dust emissions. These guidelines pertain to the sweeping or cleaning of roadways, parking lots, sidewalks and similar facilities.

1. Street sweeping equipment, such as vacuum trucks, must be equipped with an effective baghouse or other filtering devices. The use of sweeping equipment with air pollution control devices that are in disrepair is prohibited.
2. Mechanical devices without filtering equipment may be used only when wet sweeping methods are effectively employed.
3. The use of leaf blowers and other similar equipment for sweeping is prohibited.
4. Manual broom sweeping is allowed.
5. Reasonable measures must be employed to prevent dust from becoming airborne during any operation where particulate matter is handled, transported or stored.

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### **15.30.060 – Fugitive emissions.**

- A. No person shall cause, allow or permit particulate matter to be handled, transported or stored without taking reasonable measures to prevent the particulate matter from becoming airborne.
- B. Within the boundaries of the municipality no person shall cause, allow or permit a building or its appurtenances or a road to be constructed, altered, repaired or demolished without taking reasonable measures to prevent particulate matter from becoming airborne.
- C. Within the boundaries of the municipality no person shall cause, allow or permit untreated open areas, including but not limited to roads, parking lots or construction sites located within a private or public lot or roadway, to be improved, graded, excavated, repaired, demolished, altered or constructed without taking reasonable measures to prevent particulate matter from becoming airborne.
- D. The director shall publish guidelines he determines to be reasonable measures for controlling fugitive emissions, and compliance with such guidelines to the satisfaction of the director shall be deemed to fulfill the requirements of subsections A through C.