

# Air Quality Fact Sheet

## Particle Pollution - Overview

### What is particle pollution?

It is

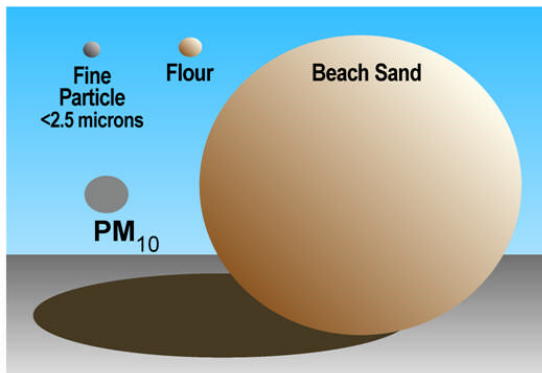
- a mixture of tiny solids and liquid droplets suspended in air.
- comprised of many different compounds including acids (such as nitrates and sulfates), organic chemicals, metals, soil or dust, and allergens (such as fragments of pollen or mold spores).
- measured according to particle size. Fine particles (also called  $PM_{2.5}$ ) are very small, less than 2.5 micrometers in size. Larger particles that are smaller than 10 micrometers are called  $PM_{10}$  or coarse particles.

### Other information:

Different sources produce particle pollution: power plants, wood-burning stoves, cars and trucks, diesel engines, industrial plants, forest fires, and more.

Particle pollution is a health concern because particles can get deep into your lungs. It is of special concern for people with heart or lung diseases, older adults, and children.

Particle pollution reduces visibility and causes haze.



Particle size comparison



Particle pollution reduces visibility



#### Contact Information:

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#### Footnotes:

Particle pollution is also called  $PM_{2.5}$ , particulate matter, and fine particles.

For more information visit [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov).