ENVIRONMENTAL MONTHLY BULLETIN

April 2026

Dust & Opacity

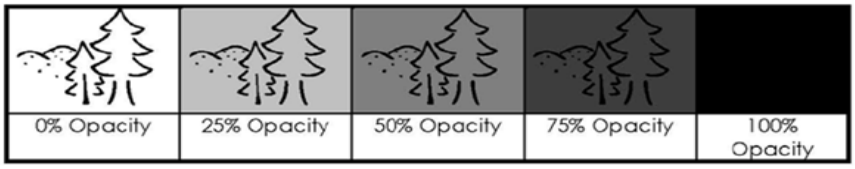
Why is controlling dust important?

- Health, Visibility, Safety
- Environmental Compliance

  FMSI air quality permit places limits on the amount of visible emissions we can generate

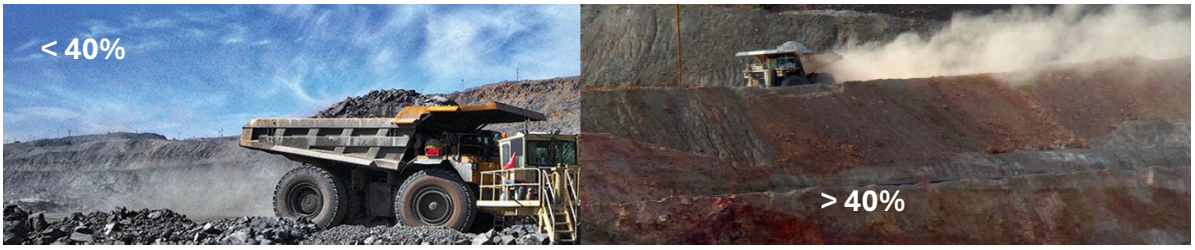
What is opacity?

- Visible emissions are measured by determining opacity. Opacity refers to how visibly dense dust particles are in the air. It indicates the degree to which the dust plume blocks light or reduces visibility and is measured in 5% increments.



What is fugitive dust?

- Dust which has no definable point source. Sources of fugitive dust at FMSI include open areas, roadways, dry washes and storage piles
- 40% opacity limit listed in air permit for fugitive dust sources
- Controls we have in place to minimize fugitive dust
  - Water trucks
  - Spray shovel bank
  - Chemical dust suppressant
  - Posted speed limits
  - Process controls



Your responsibility in helping mitigate dust and keep Safford in environmental compliance

- If you see fugitive dust outside of normal occurrence, call for a water truck
- If the loading of haul trucks is dusty, call dispatch and tell them to bank spray the material being loaded; this also helps control dust while dumping at the primary crusher
- Obey speed limits, if the road you are driving on is excessively dust, slow down
- Report excess dust/emissions to environmental
- Minimize activity when there is excessive wind

What you need to remember

Everyone plays a role in maintaining our air quality operating permit!
Contact Environmental Services with any questions (Top Floor ADMIN Building)