Resources for health concerns relating to dust created during cleanup at HPNS

Where can I find more information on dust?

The Navy posts air monitoring data collected on HPNS to their website as it becomes available. Additionally, the websites for the agencies listed below contain valuable information on dust and air emissions in the San Francisco Bay area.

Navy Air Monitoring Reports for HPNS

Air quality data may be found on the Navy's BRAC website at www.bracpmo.navy.mil. Once on the website, click on: "BRAC Bases" -> "California"-> "Former Naval Shipyard Hunters Point" -> Documents -> Air Monitoring

Federal and State Agencies

United States Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/air/

California Environmental Protection Agency Air Resources Board
www.arb.ca.gov

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
www.baaqmd.gov

Local Public Health Agencies

San Francisco Department of Public Health
www.sfdph.org

City of San Francisco Department of Public Health Asthma Task Force
www.sfgov.org/asthma

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HPNS
Hunters Point Naval Shipyard

Dust Control During Cleanup at HPNS

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What is dust and how does it affect me?

Dust is a common air pollutant generated by many different sources and activities. Dust occurs naturally all around us and may be worsened by activities like construction, excess buildup of dirt on roadways, and weather conditions. Airborne dust affects every individual differently but can cause allergies, rashes, and aggravate respiratory conditions, such as asthma.

What is the Navy doing to control dust during cleanup at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPNS)?

The Navy has implemented several measures to control dust on HPNS during construction activities. These onsite measures also extend to trucks hauling soil and debris offsite in order to minimize moving dust into the HPNS community. A summary of the controls the Navy has implemented at HPNS to minimize dust during construction activities is provided below.

Basewide Dust Control Plan

The Navy has prepared a basewide Dust Control Plan to ensure that all contractors working at HPNS are following the same measures to decrease and minimize dust on active construction sites.

Several key components of the HPNS Dust Control Plan are outlined below.

Soil Maintenance

- Water is used to wet the soil during soil movement activities, such as excavation or grading, to minimize release of dust into the atmosphere
- Soil stockpiled on HPNS is stored on top of plastic and then covered with a soil cementing compound or by a plastic sheet to prevent dust
- Straw waddles are placed around soil stockpiles to prevent soil runoff during heavy rains
- Soil stockpiles are inspected on a regular basis to ensure their covers (soil cementing compound or plastic sheet) remain in good condition with no visible signs of erosion that might cause additional onsite dust

Air Monitoring

- For all active construction projects, air monitoring stations are placed both downwind and upwind of cleanup activities
- Air monitoring stations collect data on dust and chemicals in the air
- Soils are screened in the field for airborne contaminants
- In addition to the samples collected by the Navy, regulatory agencies also collect onsite air samples as an additional verification step

Continued on Page 2

The Navy's basewide Dust Control Plan establishes on-site procedures to control dust within work areas

continued from Page 1

Durable Covers

The Navy installs durable covers on parcels and sites when all cleanup activities are complete. Examples of durable covers include soil covers planted with vegetation, rock walls located along the shoreline of many parcels, and asphalt covers.

Truck Management

Another important component of dust control at HPNS and within the HPNS community is truck management. The following measures have been put in place to minimize dust on HPNS and in the community when trucks leave HPNS.

- Trucks are prohibited from idling while waiting for work to begin
- The truck speed limit on HPNS is 15 miles per hour (mph) or 5 mph in active work zones
- Every truck leaving HPNS is covered with a tarp to prevent soil and debris from blowing out of the truck bed and into the HPNS community
- Metal rumble strips are used at construction zone entry and exit points to physically knock loose dirt and dust from the truck tires
- Truck tires are cleaned before exiting the site using a dedicated truck tire wash system
- HPNS streets maintained by the Navy are swept with a street sweeper to further reduce any potential remaining soil and dust left by trucks or heavy equipment

Air Monitoring

Air monitoring equipment is placed in work areas where construction activities are ongoing

Soils are tested in the field for airborne contaminants

Watering System and Soil Maintenance

Water is used to minimize dust at active construction sites

Stockpiles of soil are sprayed with a soil cementing compound to prevent windblown dust

Straw waddles are placed at the base of soil stockpiles to prevent runoff during heavy rains

Durable Covers

Asphalt pavement reduces dust in larger areas

Soil covers with native vegetation reduce dust in open spaces

Rock walls minimize dust along the shoreline

Truck Management

Truck beds containing soil are required to be covered

Before exiting HPNS, trucks pass through the tire wash and over rumble strips

Streets are swept daily in active work areas