



Tempe Environmental Bulletin

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'Tis the Holiday Season

Often times, along with the holidays come high pollution advisory days. This weekend is no exception. Please be advised that **a pollution advisory is in effect for Maricopa County on 12/31/16**. To receive notifications of high pollution days and to learn how to improve air quality in the Valley visit <http://cleanairmakemore.com/>



EPA Website Updates

The EPA has recently changed their website to streamline information and improve usability. A few topics that would be of interest to the businesses and industries in Tempe follow:



- The Final Rule applying to dental offices using Dental Amalgam was signed on December 15, 2016. In this rule the EPA is promulgating pretreatment standards to reduce discharges of mercury from dental offices into publicly owned treatment works (POTWs). The rule will require dental offices to install amalgam separators to capture mercury and other metals before they are discharged into sewers. Learn more about this rule at <https://www.epa.gov/eg/dental-effluent-guidelines>. Tempe will be reaching out to affected facilities in Tempe to provide information on the new regulation.
- Stormwater pollution is caused by rain water being unable to infiltrate where it falls due to concentrated amounts of hard surfaces (pavement, roadways, buildings, sidewalks) installed in developed areas. As the water flows over the hard surfaces it picks up chemicals, dirt, debris from industrial and other activities and carries the pollutants to parks, lakes, rivers where there is potential to negatively impact the environment and future sources of drinking water. EPA regulations related to stormwater can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-stormwater-program>
- Green infrastructure is one way to manage the effects of stormwater pollution. The EPA has released a draft guide to assist with Community Stormwater planning. <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-planning>. A toolkit will also be developed by the EPA to assist communities with evaluating the costs and benefits for various green infrastructure features. Locally, Mesa and Glendale collaborated to develop their own low impact development (LID) toolkit for green infrastructure features for managing stormwater flows and reducing pollution. Mesa's toolkit can be found <http://www.mesaaz.gov/home/showdocument?id=14999>

Upcoming training opportunities for stormwater professionals

- [Associated General Contractors Environmental Training](#) Feb. 16 & 17, 2017
- [National Stormwater Center Certified Stormwater Inspector Training](#) Feb. 21 & 22, 2017

Be Stormwater Smart

Making sure only rain gets in to the storm drains is something that everyone can do to make a difference in the quality of our environment. More stormwater tips are available at: <https://www.tempe.gov/city-hall/public-works/water/stormwater/stormwater-tips>