



# DUST MANAGEMENT AND AIR MONITORING

Information on Ways the Navy Controls Dust During Environmental Cleanup at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard

July 2022



The Department of the Navy (Navy) has implemented several measures to control dust and monitor the air during cleanup activities at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPNS).

In this FAQ, the Navy answers several of the most frequently asked questions received from members of the community. More information on dust and air monitoring can be found on the Navy's website at [www.bracpmo.navy.mil/hpns](http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/hpns)

For more information on the Navy's cleanup at HPNS, visit [www.bracpmo.navy.mil/hpns](http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/hpns) or call (415) 295-4742.

Para más información sobre el programa de limpieza de la Marina en Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, favor de dejar un mensaje en (833) 202-5888.

有关海军在猎人角海军造船厂的清理活动方案的更多信息，请拨打 (833) 350-6222 并留言。

## 1. What is dust and why is it created at HPNS?

Dust is a common air pollutant generated by many different sources and activities. Dust occurs naturally all around us and may become worse 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.

## 2. What is the Navy doing to control dust during cleanup at HPNS?

The Navy has implemented several measures to control dust on HPNS during construction activities. Contractors prepare their own dust control plans specific to proposed fieldwork. Examples of dust management in fieldwork plans include soil maintenance, air monitoring, durable covers, and truck management.

## 3. How does the Navy manage soil during construction at HPNS?

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 covers (soil cementing compound or plastic sheet) remain in good condition with no visible signs of erosion that might cause additional onsite dust.

## 4. What type of air monitoring does the Navy conduct at HPNS?

For all active construction projects, air monitoring stations are placed both upwind and downwind of cleanup activities. Wind direction is verified by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [Climate.gov](http://Climate.gov) historical data. Air monitoring stations collect data on dust and chemicals in the air. Soils are screened in the field for airborne contaminants. Regulatory agencies collect onsite air samples to verify Navy results.



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### 5. How does the Navy limit dust by managing HPNS construction truck traffic?

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. Onsite measures also extend to trucks hauling soil and debris offsite to minimize moving dust into the HPNS community.

### 6. How is the public protected from dust caused by earth moving operations at the Shipyard?

Dust suppression measures are defined in Navy work plans, which are reviewed and approved by regulatory agencies. These measures include regular watering of surface soil to reduce dust, tire washing, covering of trucks transporting soil to landfills, and regular air quality monitoring both upwind and downwind from the location of earthmoving operations.

### 7. What type of safety measures are taken during radiological cleanup to ensure worker safety as well as keeping the community safe from contaminants?

The Navy implements several onsite controls and procedures at HPNS to ensure public safety. Examples include: (1) the establishment of radiologically controlled areas, (2) daily monitoring of air quality, and (3) implementation of the fieldwork dust control plans. In addition, regulatory agencies and the California Department of Public Health collect their own confirmation samples from radiological cleanup sites for independent verification and site workers follow health and safety plans specific to their tasks.

### 8. Where can I find information on Navy air monitoring at HPNS?

Navy contractors prepare their own dust control plans and air monitoring plans specific to proposed fieldwork. Air monitoring is implemented and reported according to the approved plans. The Navy posts air monitoring data to the HPNS on the Air Monitoring tab of the Documents page as it becomes available. The website address is [www.bracpmo.navy.mil/BRAC-Bases/California/Former-Naval-Shipyard-Hunters-Point/Documents/#air-monitoring](http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/BRAC-Bases/California/Former-Naval-Shipyard-Hunters-Point/Documents/#air-monitoring)

### 9. What other resources are available for more information on dust?

Valuable information on dust and air emissions in the San Francisco Bay area may be found on the following agency websites.

- **United States Environmental Protection Agency**  
[www.epa.gov/air/](http://www.epa.gov/air/)
- **California Environmental Protection Agency Air Resources Board**  
[www.arb.ca.gov](http://www.arb.ca.gov)
- **Bay Area Air Quality Management District**  
[www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov)
- **San Francisco Department of Public Health**  
[www.sfdph.org](http://www.sfdph.org)
- **City of San Francisco Department of Public Health Asthma Task Force**  
[www.sfgov.org/asthma](http://www.sfgov.org/asthma)