



# Municipality of Anchorage

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

## Department of Health and Human Services

April 9, 2018

Dear Property Owner, Property Manager or Sweeping Contractor,

Spring melting season has arrived!

Property owners, managers and contractors will soon be sweeping up a winter's worth of accumulated traction material from our streets, sidewalks and parking lots. **You play an important role in keeping Anchorage's air clean.**

During spring "break-up" in Anchorage, elevated dust levels can approach or exceed federal standards, making breathing difficult for susceptible individuals including the young and elderly, those who suffer from asthma and those with many other types of lung or heart ailments. As someone who may own or manage properties requiring spring cleanup, or as someone involved in the commercial sweeping business, we wanted to make sure you were aware of municipal code requirements and your responsibilities relating to cleanup of parking lots, sidewalks, and roadways.

On the back of this letter are municipal guidelines for street sweeping and cleanup operations. These are intended to minimize the amount of dust generated during sweeping operations.

**Before mechanical sweeping is performed, the area must be pre-wetted to ensure effective control of airborne dust. The use of leaf blowers for dry sweeping of debris laden with particulate matter is prohibited.**

If you are a sweeping contractor, please make sure that everyone in your company is aware and abides by these guidelines. If you are a property owner or manager, please ensure that your sweeping contractor is aware of these guidelines and follows them. Any deviation from these guidelines is considered a violation of municipal code and could result in a citation and fine. I am requesting that you consider your neighborhood air during sweeping operations. Thank you for your efforts to keep our air clean.

Please call or e-mail if you have questions.

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## **DUST CONTROL GUIDELINES FOR SWEEPING OPERATIONS**

Department of Health and Human Services, March 23, 2018

Under AMC 15.30.060D, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services shall publish guidelines requiring the reasonable control of particulate or dust emissions. These guidelines pertain to the sweeping or cleaning of roadways, parking lots, sidewalks and similar facilities.

1. Street sweeping equipment, such as vacuum trucks, must be equipped with an effective baghouse or other filtering devices. The use of sweeping equipment with air pollution control devices that are in disrepair is prohibited.
2. Mechanical devices without filtering equipment may be used only when wet sweeping methods are effectively employed.
3. The use of leaf blowers and other similar equipment for sweeping is prohibited.
4. Manual broom sweeping is allowed.
5. Reasonable measures must be employed to prevent dust from becoming airborne during any operation where particulate matter is handled, transported or stored.

### **15.30.060 – Fugitive emissions.**

- A. No person shall cause, allow or permit particulate matter to be handled, transported or stored without taking reasonable measures to prevent the particulate matter from becoming airborne.
- B. Within the boundaries of the municipality no person shall cause, allow or permit a building or its appurtenances or a road to be constructed, altered, repaired or demolished without taking reasonable measures to prevent particulate matter from becoming airborne.
- C. Within the boundaries of the municipality no person shall cause, allow or permit untreated open areas, including but not limited to roads, parking lots or construction sites located within a private or public lot or roadway, to be improved, graded, excavated, repaired, demolished, altered or constructed without taking reasonable measures to prevent particulate matter from becoming airborne.
- D. The director shall publish guidelines he determines to be reasonable measures for controlling fugitive emissions, and compliance with such guidelines to the satisfaction of the director shall be deemed to fulfill the requirements of subsections A through C.