



Blinding, blowing dust storms, frequent in Arizona during the summer, cause reduced visibility to near zero, creating unexpected and unsafe conditions for motorists. How you react in a dust storm can save your life and the life of others, prevent injuries, and reduce property damage.

Also called a "HABOOB," dust storms are most common between May and September in Maricopa and Pima County.

Although brief, dust storms must be taken seriously because they cause blinding conditions on the highways. Each year, an average of five people loses their lives and many more are seriously injured as a result of sudden, violent dust storms.

ADOT recommends the following:

- Never stop in the middle of the road.
- Pull off the road and turn off your lights.
- Run over tumbleweeds. They can't hurt your car.
- If pulled over, activate emergency brake and remove foot off of brake pedal.
- Stay in the vehicle with your seatbelts buckled and wait for the storm to pass.
- Drivers of high-profile vehicles should be especially aware of changing weather conditions and travel at reduced speeds.
- A driver's alertness and safety driving ability is still the number one factor to prevent crashes.
- When returning to the pavement, be aware that the road may be slippery and in some cases, pavement markings may be obscured by sand and dust blown on the road. Rain frequently accompanies dust storms and will cause slipper conditions.

**Information provided by the Arizona Department of Transportation*