



## **mineral dusts - regulation and management**

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Mineral dusts can be a nuisance or a hazard. They can cause a wide variety of acute and chronic physical, chemical or biological health problems to people as well as damage to crops, livestock and ecosystems. Sensitive equipment is also vulnerable to emissions. In developed countries, strong measures have been introduced to minimise occupational exposure but approaches to dealing with dust in the general environment are less mature. The public is alert to deposition of coarse dust which can be easily seen but is less aware of finer particulates, which are often more hazardous, and of the range of hazards associated with dust. Many administrations have issued guidance on good practices for reducing the potential for dust emissions from wind erosion. But major emissions from other phenomena such as volcanic eruptions are less tractable. Matters are complicated by environmental change that may influence rates of emissions and social and economic changes which may change exposure levels, and by the source areas often being in different administrative areas or countries to areas of deposition. Better communication between the scientific community, administrators and the public is needed to raise awareness of dust issues and responses.