

Managing Fugitive Dust On Roads and Airports

A photograph of a road construction site in a forested area. A large white truck is driving away from the camera, kicking up a thick cloud of dust that fills the air. Several cars are stopped on the road, and a worker in a high-visibility vest is visible near the center. The road is lined with orange traffic cones and signs, including a speed limit sign for 45. The surrounding area is filled with tall evergreen trees and green grass.

Billy Connor
Alaska Tribal Technical Assistance Program
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Road Map Part 1

- Understanding fugitive dust
- Impacts of Dust
- Methods to manage dust
- Road Preparation
- Selecting and Applying Palliatives
- Performance Testing



Unpaved Roads in the US



- 1.3 million miles of unpaved road in US
- 97% located in rural areas
- Source of 10.5 million tons particulate matter <math><10\mu\text{m}</math> (PM10)

An Example of the Magnitude of the Problem

- Consider: -> 2-mile stretch of unpaved road,
- -> 20 vehicles/day,
- -> average speed= 30 mph.

- Result: 10,920 lbs of dust (PM10) per month

- (Roberts et al., 1975)



Impact of Loss of Particulate Matter from Unpaved Roads

- Degradation of road surface
- Driver safety
- Health and Quality of life



Soil Vocabulary

- **Surface course:** the top layer of the road that is directly driven on
- **Aggregate:** a mixture of different sized crushed rock that makes up the road surface
- **Fines:** the smaller (fine) pieces of crushed rock material that is part of the aggregate and makes up the road surface
- **Plasticity:** a measure of the quality of the binding particles in a clay soil; higher clay content of soil generally indicates higher plasticity
- **Dust suppressant / dust palliative:** substances applied to the surface of a road to control and reduce the generation of dust
- **Chip seal/high float:** a road type made up of one or more layers of asphalt and aggregate

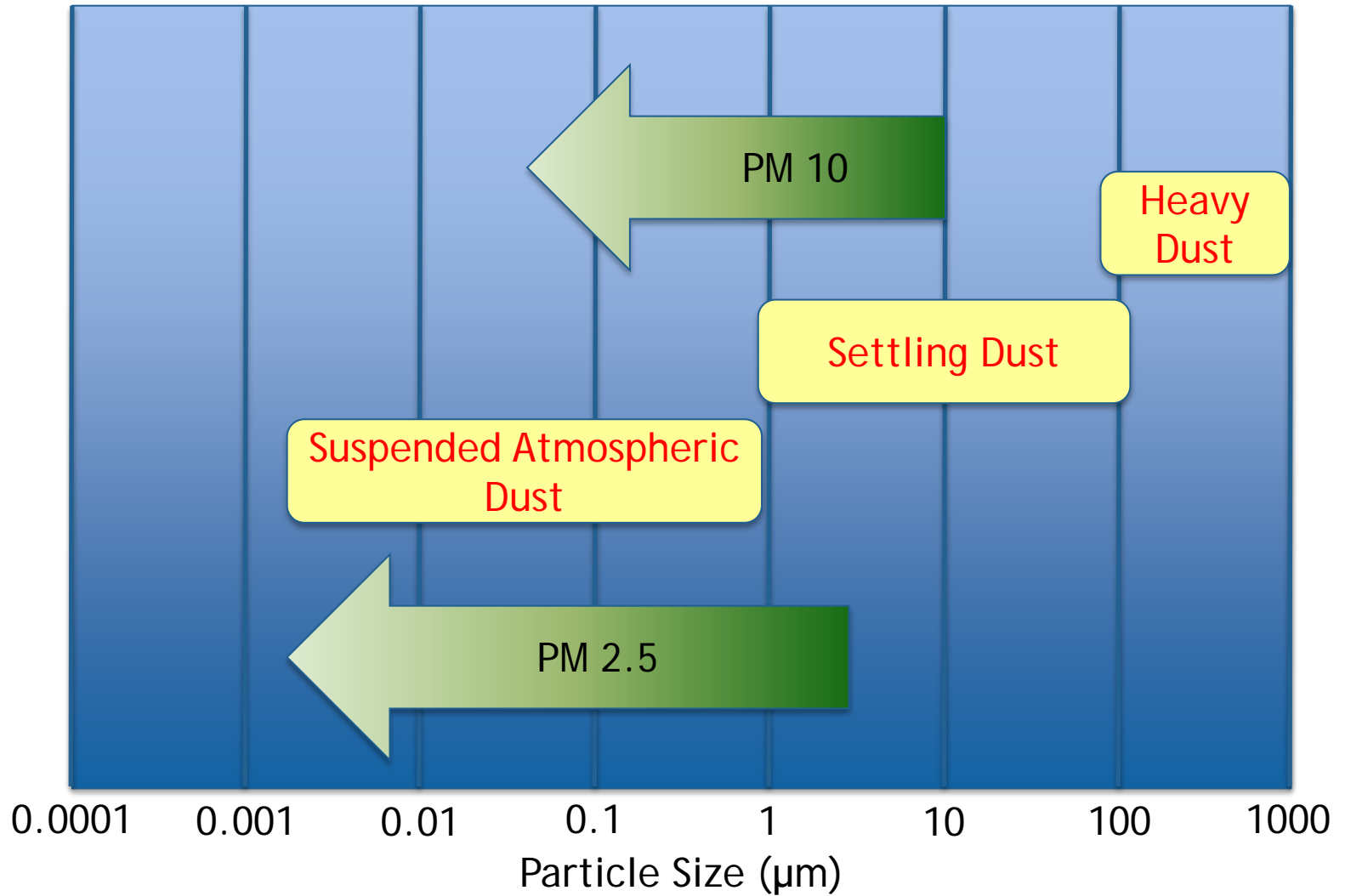


Dust Definitions



- Loftable material: any material that can be placed in the air due to wind or vehicles. Usually $<0.75\text{mm}$
- Suspended material: Any material that stays in the air for an extended period of time. Usually $<\text{PM}_{30}$
- Harmful to Health $<\text{PM}_{10}$

How Small are These Particles We Are Working With?



Really Small!

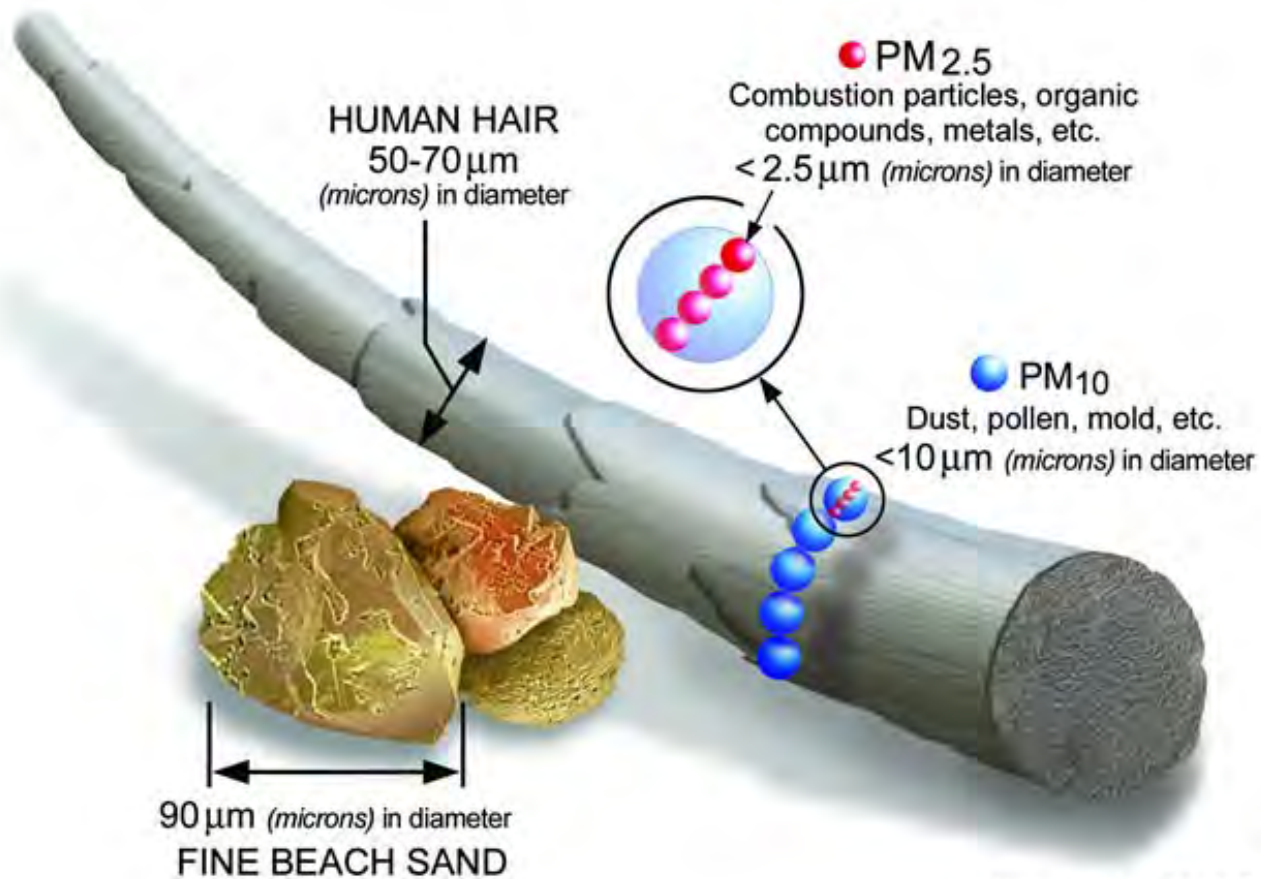


Image courtesy of the U.S. EPA

Health Issues

- Impacts children, elderly, and those with respiratory ailments the most
- Mortality rates increase 4.3% to 10% per $10 \mu\text{g}\text{m}^{-3}$ PM10
- PM2.5 may penetrate into the alveoli of the lungs reducing transfer of oxygen
- 1 micron may enter the bloodstream



Prioritize Areas for Dust Suppression

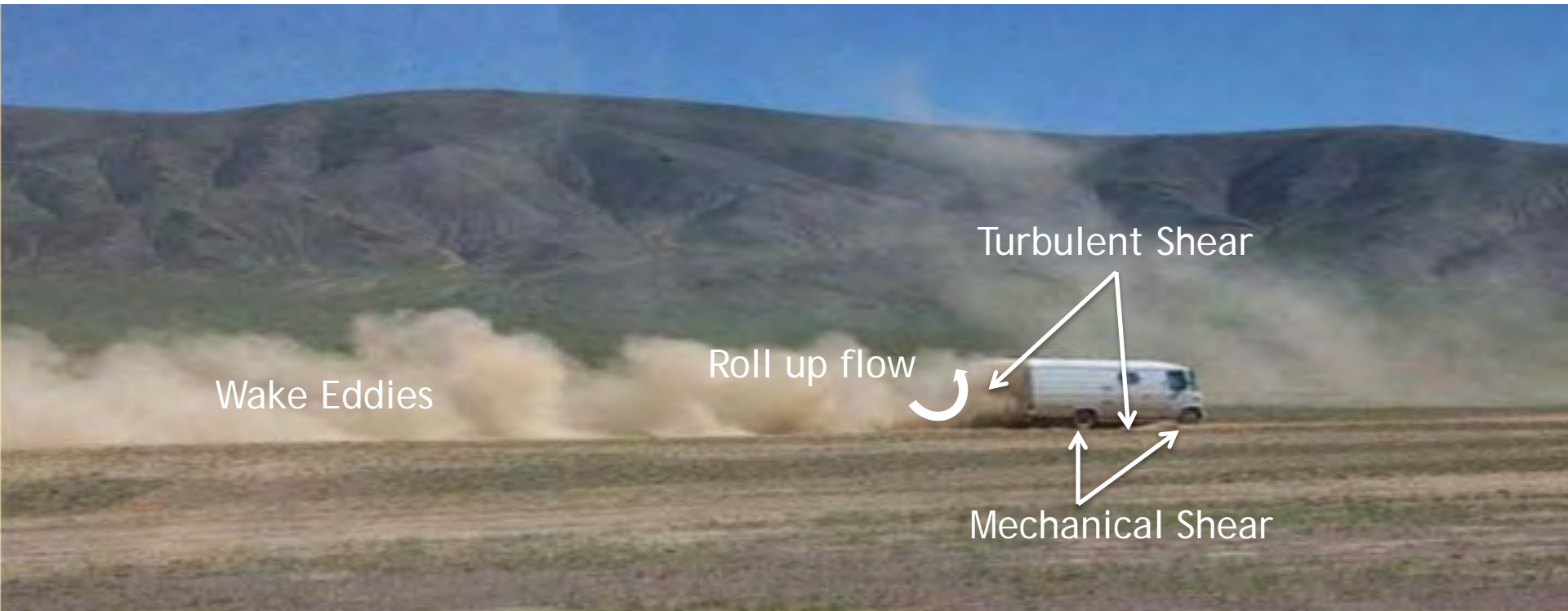


- Roads that are used the most
- Roads near places where people congregate (school, community hall, store, clinic, etc.)
- Roads outside of homes where individuals with respiratory issues live (young, elderly)
- Roads close to environmentally sensitive areas
- Roads near subsistence and food preparation areas

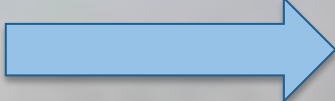


What Causes This?

We Need a Mechanical Means of Lofting Particles into The Air



Moving Dust


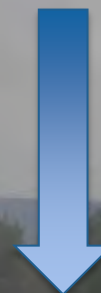


Advective Transport



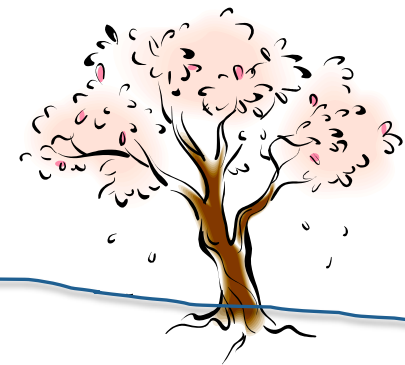
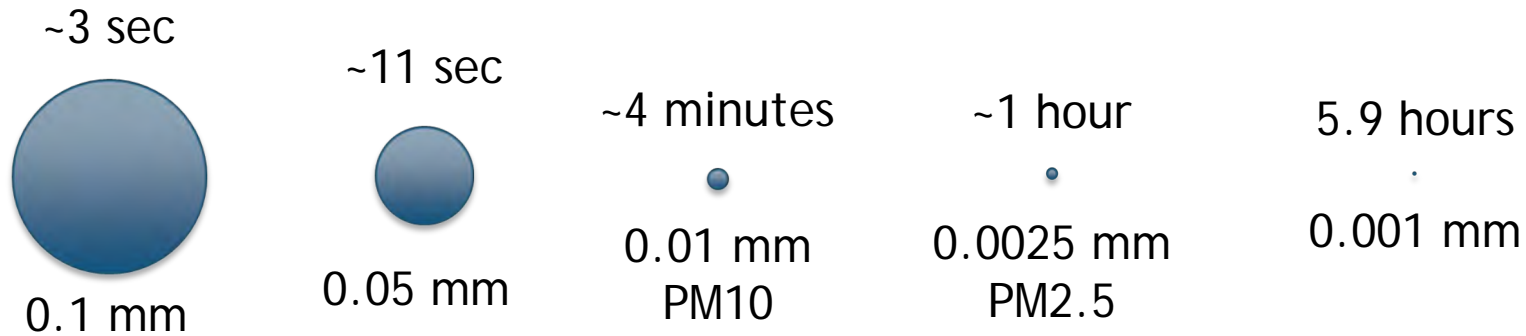
Turbulent Diffusion

Settling



Mechanical
and
Convective
Lofting

Settling time from a 2m loft



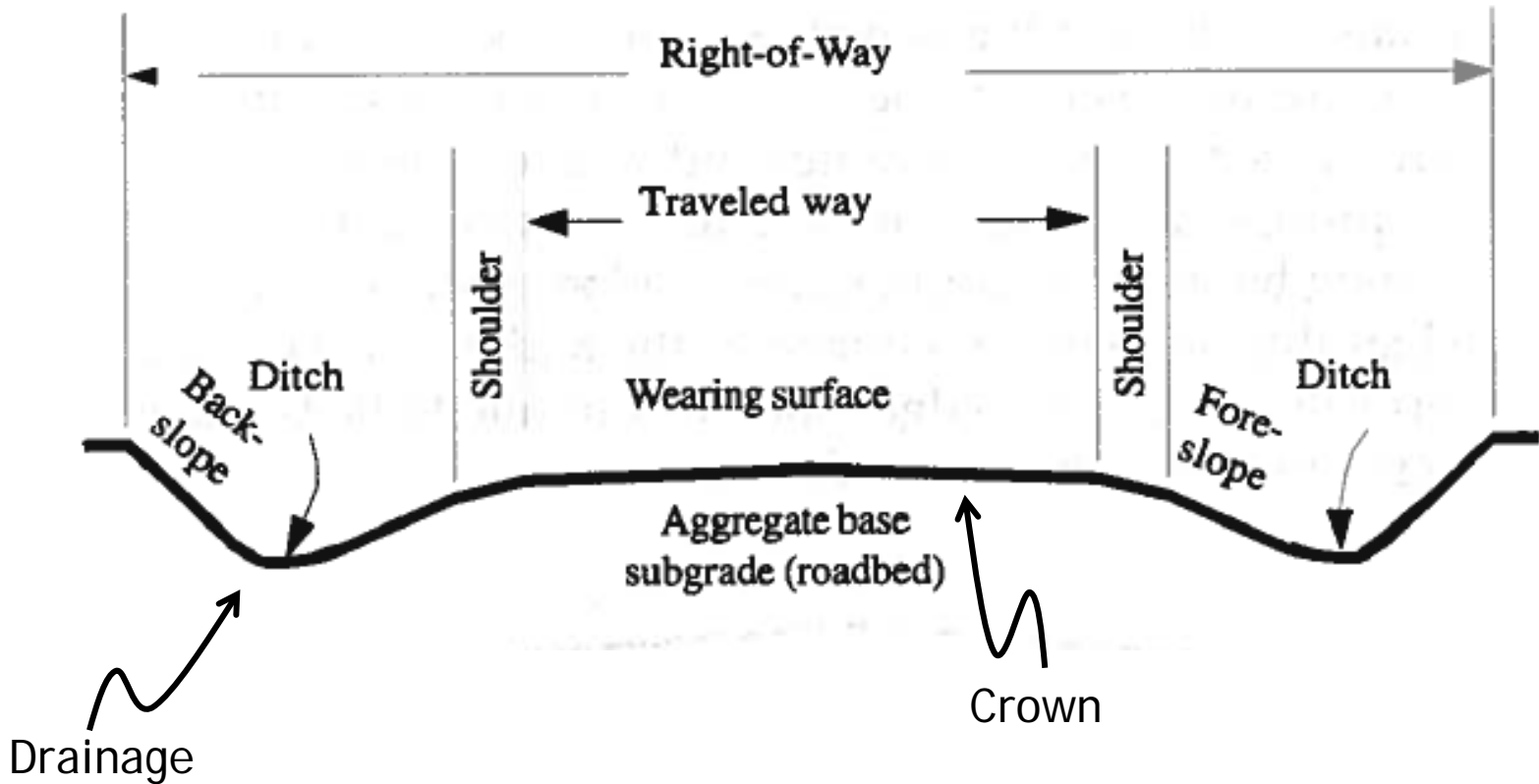
Methods to Manage Dust





**Good Dust Management
Starts with a Good Road**

Control Dust through Proper Design and Construction



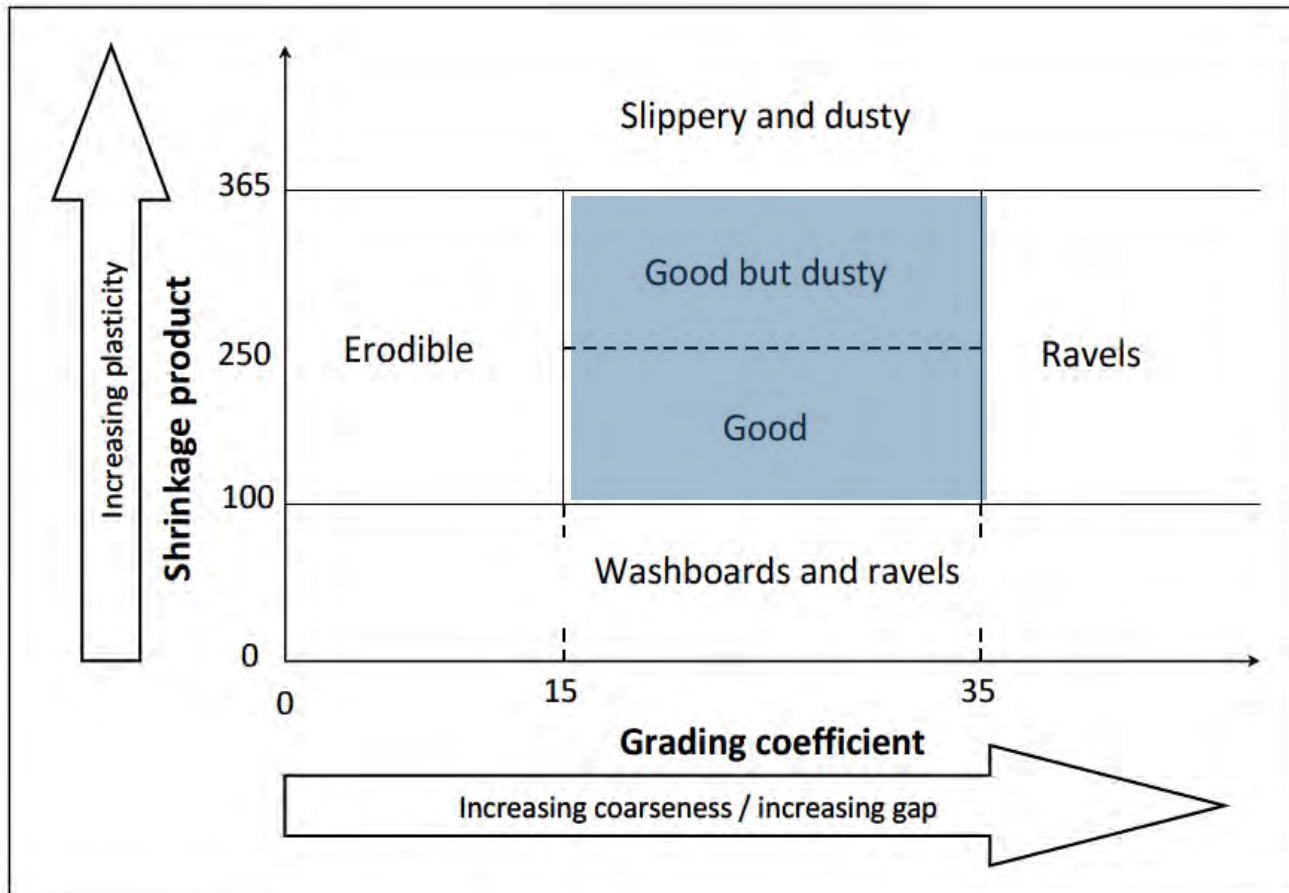
Suggested Dust Management Approaches

Based on Rainfall	Suggested Dust Management Level		Based on Road Usage
12-20 dusty days (May-Sept)	Level 1: Institutional Controls (i.e. changes to driving behavior)		< 25 vehicles/day
21-30 dusty days (May-Sept)	Level 2: Institutional Controls + Road Watering		25-75 vehicles/day
31-50 dusty days (May-Sept)	Level 3: Institutional Controls + Chemical Stabilization (i.e. palliatives)		75-500 vehicles/day
51-61 dusty days (May-Sept)	Level 4: Aggregate Stabilization	(ex. chip seals)	500-1,500 vehicles/day
		(ex. pavement)	> 1,500 vehicles/day



Proper Fines is Critical

Proper fines content (passing the #200 sieve) is between 8 and 15% for untreated roads.



Using the Right Building Material is Critical

Too Many Fines Causes Muddy Roads



Float



Too Few Fines

Float

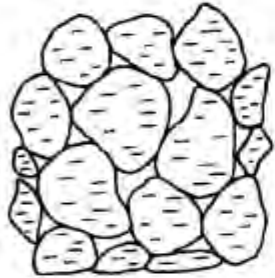
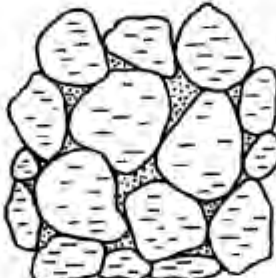
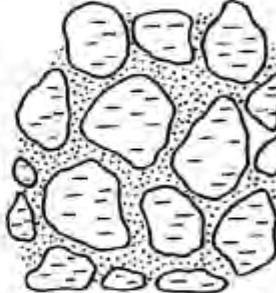


Washboard



Loose Fines



		
Aggregate With No Fines	Aggregate With Sufficient Fines For Maximum Density	Aggregate With Great Amount Of Fines
Grain-to-grain contact	Grain-to-grain contact with increased resistance against deformation	Grain-to-grain contact destroyed, aggregate "floating" in soil
Variable density	Increased to maximum density	Decreased density
Pervious	Low permeability	Low permeability
Non-frost susceptible	Frost susceptible	Frost susceptible
High stability if confined, low if unconfined	Relatively high stability in confined or unconfined conditions	Low stability and low strength
Not affected by adverse water conditions	Not greatly affected by adverse water conditions	Greatly affected by adverse water conditions
Difficult to compact	Moderately difficult to compact	Not difficult to compact
Ravels easily	Good road performance	Dusts easily

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Conference

Proper Crown is Critical

- Should be between 4% and 5%



A Good Crown is Critical

- Too Flat Causes ponding



A Good Crown is Critical

- Too Steep Causes Erosion

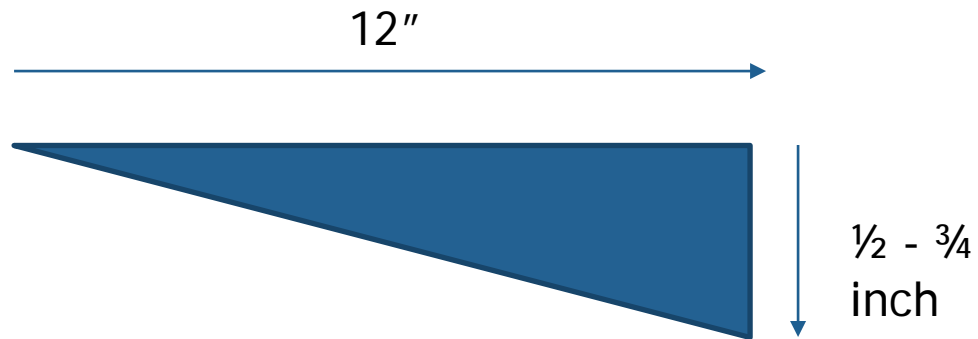


Courtesy of Dave Jones

Commercial Slope Meter



Measuring Crown





Material feathered to eliminate water ponding

Gap under blade indicates crown

Blade rolled forward to feather material

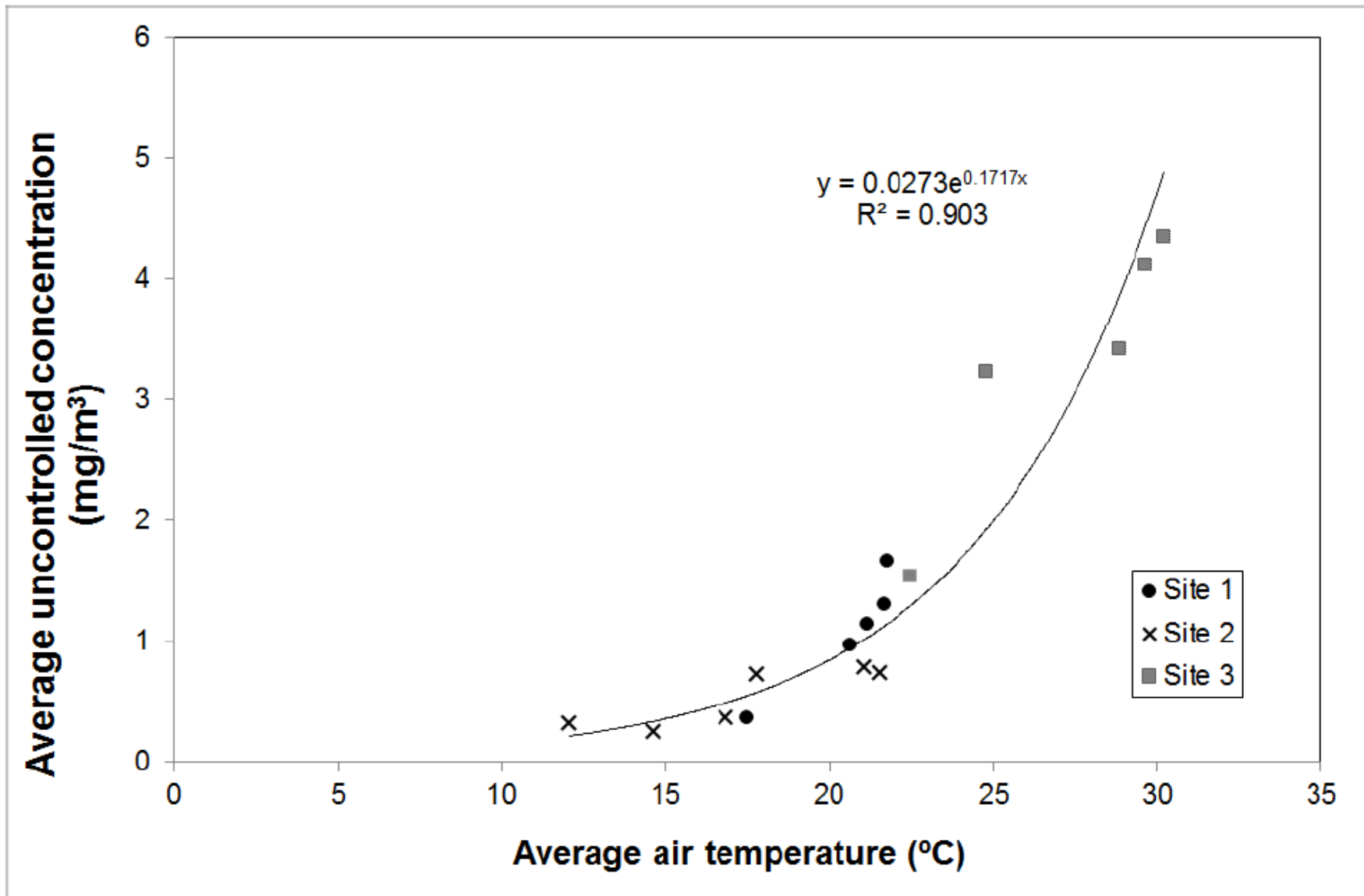
Limiting Fugitive Dust by Limiting Speed



15 MPH



30 MPH



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Types of Dust Suppressants

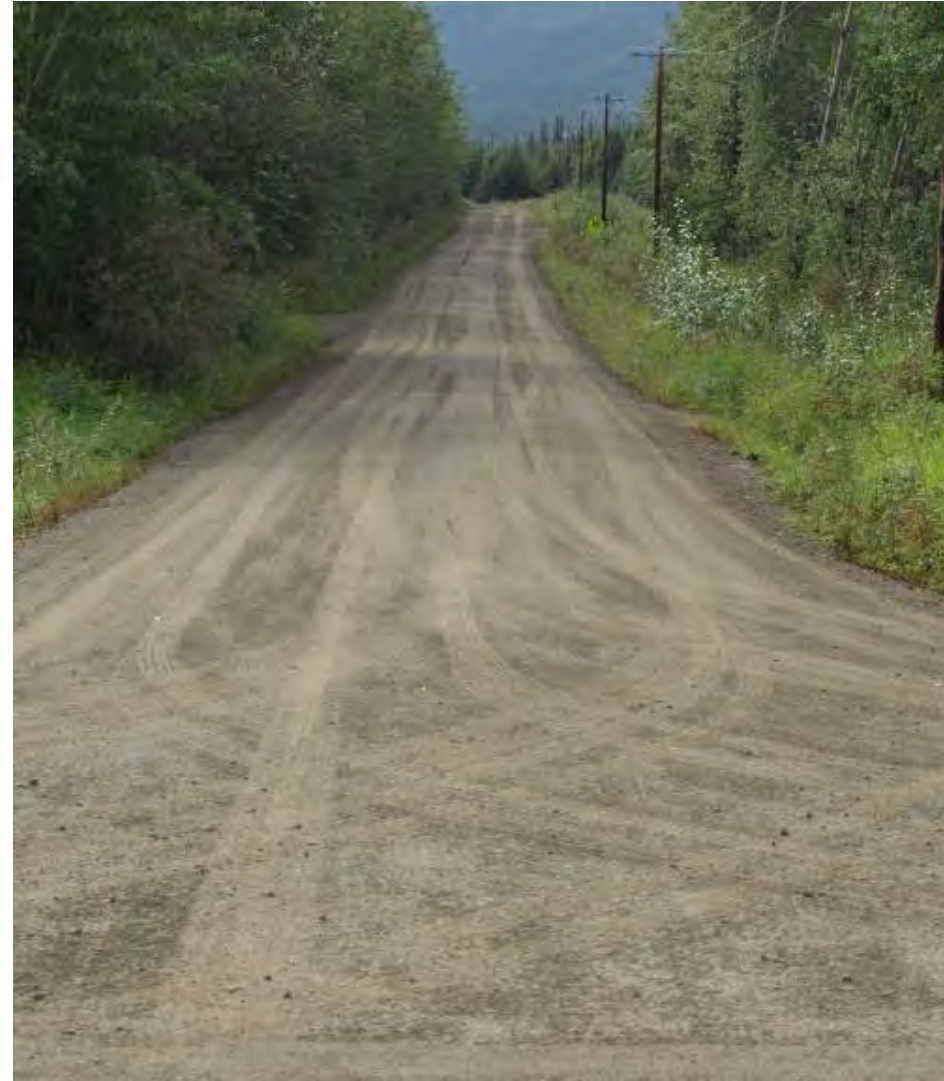
> 250 on the market!

- Water
- Water-attracting salts: *calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, sodium chloride*
- Organic non-bituminous binders: *lignosulfonates, tall oil, pine tar*
- Synthetic oils: *proprietary formulations*
- Electrical-chemical stabilizers: *enzymes, sulfonated oils, ionic*
- Bitumen asphalt and tar: *cutback asphalts, emulsified asphalts*
- Synthetic polymer emulsions: *polyvinyl acetate, vinyl acrylic*

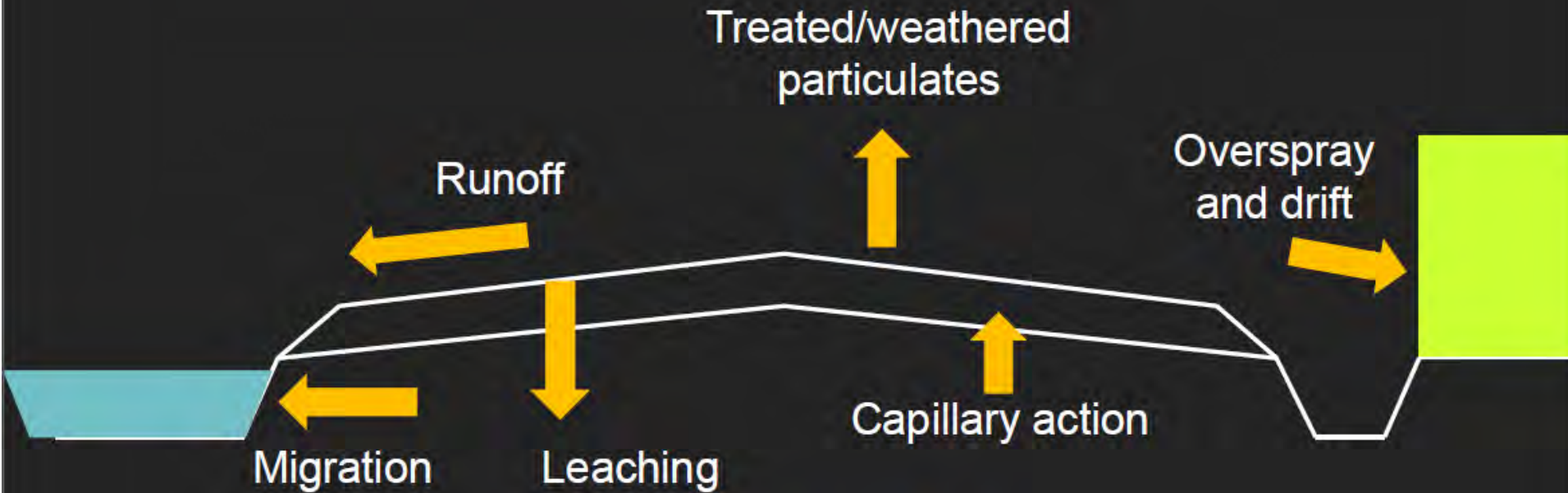


General Considerations for Dust Suppressants

- Plan, assess, prioritize, budget
- Start with a good base road
- Consider track on / track off
- Chemical Palliatives
 - Requires periodic reapplication
 - Consider recompacting every few weeks
 - Wear and abrasion is minimized with good driving habits
- Pavements
 - Requires annual maintenance
 - Encourages increased use for skateboards, bicycles, and those in wheelchairs (Alaska villages)



Environmental endpoints—ecological pathways

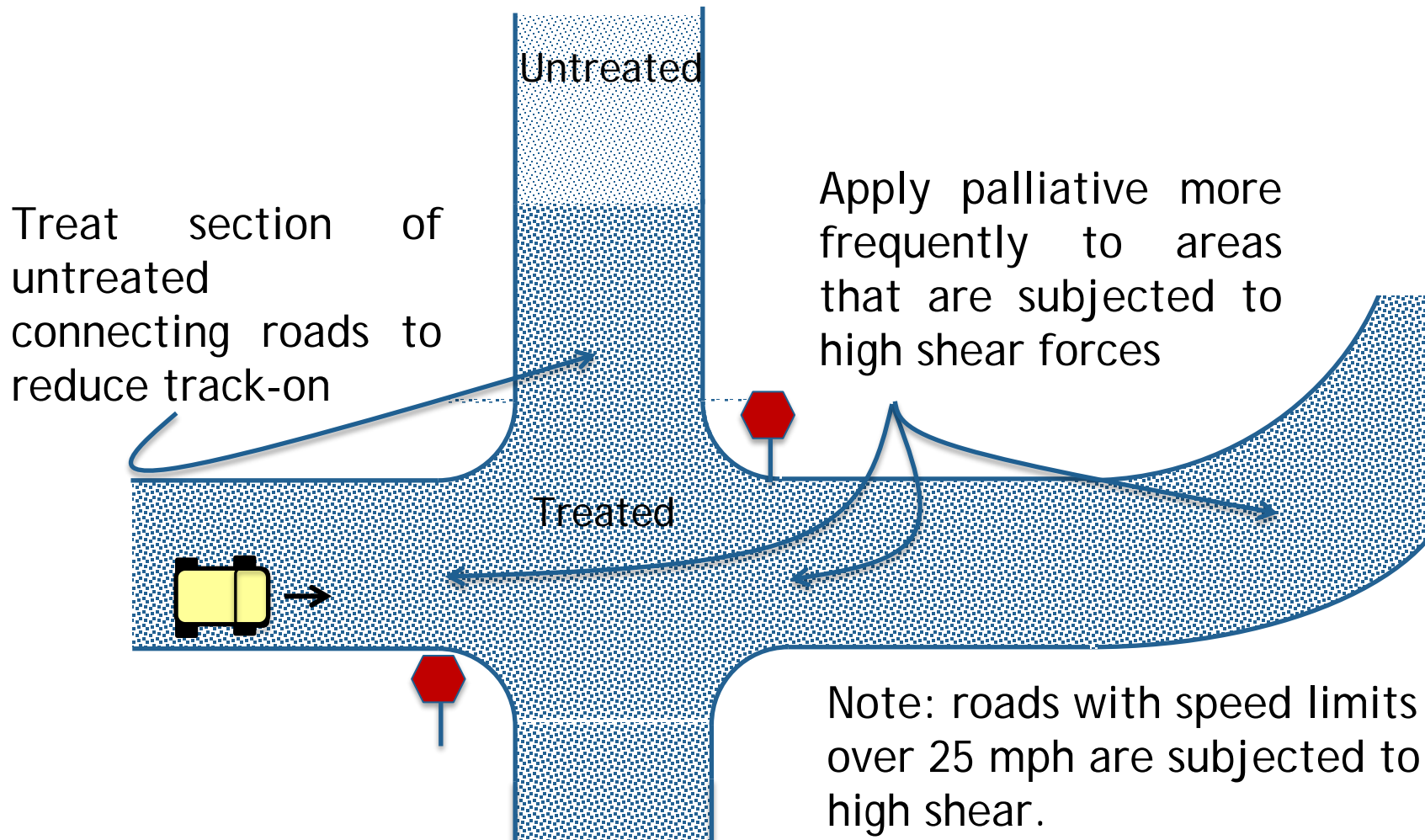


Possible receptors

Birds
Mammals
Herptiles
Invertebrates
Plants
Fish

Synthetic Fluid Considerations

Product Application and Maintenance



1999 US Forest Service Guide

Dust Palliative	Traffic Volumes, Average Daily Traffic			Surface Material								Climate During Traffic		
	Light <100	Medium 100 to 250	Heavy >250 (1)	Plasticity Index			Fines (Passing 75µm, No. 200, Sieve)					Wet &/or Rainy	Damp to Dry	Dry (2)
				<3	3-8	>8	<5	5-10	10-20	20-30	>30			
Calcium Chloride	✓✓	✓✓	✓	X	✓	✓✓	X	✓	✓✓	✓	X (3)	X (3,4)	✓✓	X
Magnesium Chloride	✓✓	✓✓	✓	X	✓	✓✓	X	✓	✓✓	✓	X (3)	X (3,4)	✓✓	✓
Petroleum	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	X	✓ (5)	✓	✓	X (6)	X	✓ (3)	✓✓	✓
Lignin	✓✓	✓✓	✓	X	✓	✓✓ (6)	X	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓ (3,6)	X (4)	✓✓	✓✓
Tall Oil	✓✓	✓	X	✓✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓✓ (6)	✓ (6)	X	✓	✓✓	✓✓
Vegetable Oils	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓
Electro-chemical	✓✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓✓	X	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓ (3,4)	✓	✓
Synthetic Polymers	✓✓	✓	X	✓✓	✓	X	X	✓✓	✓✓ (6)	X	X	✓	✓✓	✓✓
Clay Additives (6)	✓✓	✓	X	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	X	X	X (3)	✓	✓✓

Additive Selection Table

Jones 2013

Additive Category/ Sub-Category	Traffic			Climate			Wearing Course Material								
	Average Daily Traffic			Humidity/Storm Intensity			Plasticity Index				Fines (% Passing #200 [75 µm] Sieve)				
	<100	100-250 ¹	>250 ¹	Dry ⁷	Damp	Wet ^{4,5}	<3 ⁸	3-5 ⁸	6-15	>15 ^{5,7}	<5 ¹	5-10 ¹	11-20	21-30 ^{7,8}	>30 ^{5,7,8}
Water and Water plus Surfactant															
Water	Not cost effective as a long-term fines preservation strategy														
Water + surfactant	Not cost effective as a long-term fines preservation strategy														
Water absorbing															
Calcium chloride	1	1	7	50 ⁹	1	50	7	1	1	50	50	7	1	7	50
Magnesium chloride	1	1	7	7 ⁹	1	50	7	1	1	50	50	7	1	7	50
Sodium chloride brine	1	7	50	50 ⁹	7	50	50	1	1	50	50	7	1	7	50
Organic Non-Petroleum															
Glycerin based	1	1	50	1	1	50	7	1	1	50	50	7	1	7	50
Lignosulfonate	1	1	7	1	1	50	7	1	1	50	50	7	1	1	7
Molasses/sugar	1	50	50	1	1	50	50	1	1	50	50	50	1	7	50
Plant oil	1	7	50	1	1	50	50	1	1	50	50	7	1	1	50
Tall oil pitch resin	1	7	50	1	1	7	7	1	1	50	50	7	1	1	50
Organic Petroleum															
Asphalt emulsion	1	7	50	1	1	1	7	1	7 ¹	50	7	1	1	50	50
Base oil	1	1	7	1	1	7	7	1	1	50	50	7	1	1	7
Petroleum resin	1	1	50	1	1	7	7	1	1	50	7	7	1	7	50
Synthetic fluid	1	1	7	1	1	7	7	1	1	50	50	7	1	1	7
Synthetic fluid + binder	1	1	7	1	1	7	7	1	1	50	7	1	1	1	7
Synthetic Polymer Emulsion															
Synthetic polymer ²	1	1	50	1	1	7	7	1	1	50	50	1	1	7	50
Conc. Liquid Stabilizer															
Conc. Liquid Stabilizer	7	50	50	7	7	7	50	50	50	7	50	50	7	7	7
Clay Additive															
Bentonite	1	1	7	1	1	7	1	7	50	50	1	1	7	50	50

Additive Category/ Sub-Category	% trucks >10 ¹	Geometry		Rel. Life Cycle Cost	Key to Colors and Explanation Notes in Selection Charts	
		Steep Grades ^{4,8}	Sharp Curves ^{1,5}		1	7
Water	Not cost effective as a long-term fines preservation strategy				50	Significant influence on performance
Water + surfactant	Not cost effective as a long-term fines preservation strategy					
Calcium chloride	1	7	7	1		1 Cars and trucks at higher speeds may break surface crust and accelerate washboarding and raveling, if so more frequent rejuvenation will be required
Magnesium chloride	1	7	7	1		2 More than 20 days with less than 40% relative humidity
Sodium chloride brine	1	7	7	2		3 High intensity storms
Glycerin based	1	7	7	1		4 Likely to leach out and/or down into lower layers during storm events
Lignosulfonate	1	7	7	1		5 Soaked California Bearing Ratio (CBR) and abrasion resistance must be checked / increased with increasing number of trucks to ensure all-weather passability
Molasses/sugar	7	7	7	3 ¹⁰		6 Materials have little or no effective binder content and are prone to washboarding and raveling.
Plant oil	7	7	7	1		7 Treatments may leach down into road structure
Tall oil pitch resin	1	7	7	2 ¹³		8 May become slippery when wet
Asphalt emulsion	7	1	7	2 ¹⁴		9 High fines content may require higher application rates to be effective
Base oil	1	1	1	1		10 Requires a minimum humidity level to perform effectively
Petroleum resin	1	1	7	2 ¹³		11 May leach down into layer, but dry back of the material plus a light water spray / rejuvenation will return it to surface
Synthetic fluid	1	1	1	2 ¹³		12 Generally not suitable as a spray-on application. A "skin" can form on the surface which is damaged by traffic
Synthetic fluid + binder	1	1	1	2 ¹³		13 Requires frequent rejuvenation
Synthetic polymer	7	7	7	2 ¹³		14 Relatively high initial product cost price, but life-cycle cost could be lower than other treatments
Conc. Liquid Stabilizer	1	1	1	1		
Bentonite	7	7	1	1		

Selection Based on Performance

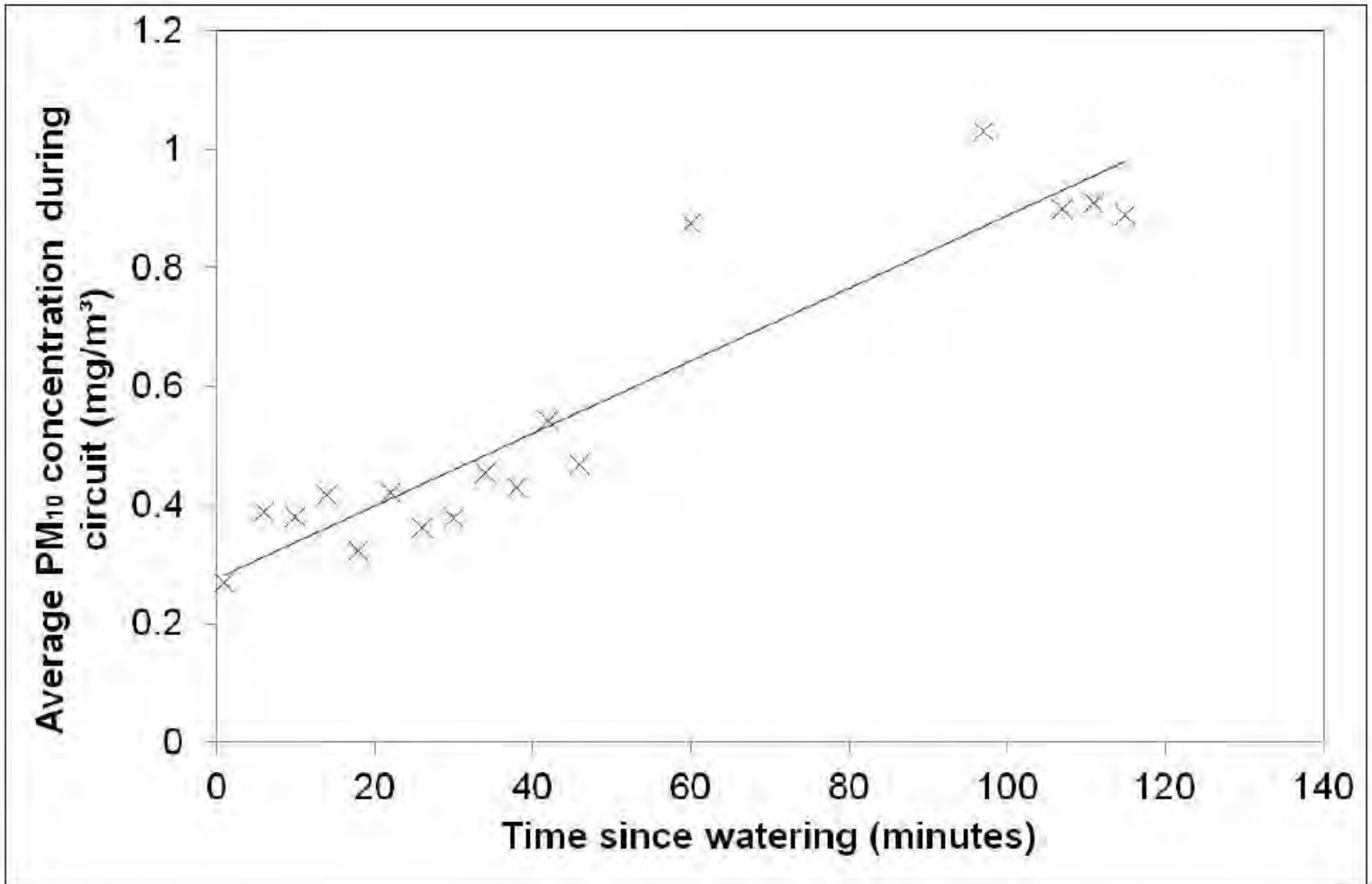
Treatment	Traffic	Climate	PI	Fines	Perf	Rank
	125	Damp	7	8		
Water	50	50	50	50	200	NS
Calcium chloride	1	1	1	7	10	2
Mag. chloride	1	1	1	7	10	2
Sodium chloride	7	7	1	7	22	4
Glycerin based	1	1	1	7	10	2
Lignosulfonate	1	1	1	7	10	2
Molasses/sugar	50	1	1	50	102	NS
Plant oil	7	1	1	7	16	3
Tall oil	7	1	1	7	16	3
Asphalt emulsion	7	1	7	1	16	3
Base/mineral oil	1	1	1	7	10	2
Petroleum resin	1	1	1	7	10	2
Synthetic fluid	1	1	1	7	10	2
Synthetic polymer	1	1	1	1	4	1
Conc. Liquid Stabilizer	50	7	50	50	157	NS
Bentonite	1	1	50	1	53	NS

Types of Dust Suppressants

> 250 on the market!

- **Water**
- Water-attracting salts: *calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, sodium chloride*
- Organic non-bituminous binders: *lignosulfonates, tall oil, pine tar*
- Synthetic oils: *proprietary formulations*
- Electrical-chemical stabilizers: *enzymes, sulfonated oils, ionic*
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What is Calcium Chloride

Calcium Chloride is a salt similar to sodium chloride but tends to be stronger.

It is used as a deicing/anti-icing chemical as well as a dust palliative.

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How does it work as a palliative?

- Calcium chloride has a strong affinity for water. It will attach to moisture in the air or soil and hold it.

How does it work as a palliative?

- Calcium chloride has a strong affinity for water. It will attach to moisture in the air or soil and hold it.

CaCl₂ Characteristics



- Most commonly used
- Requires high fines (10 - 14%)
- Ineffective when RH falls below 35%
- Can be slippery during and after a rainfall
- Has a bitter taste
- A mucus irritant
- Can impact water quality

Why use Calcium Chloride

- It is the second most common palliative besides water.
- Except for water, it is the most cost-effective palliative.
- It requires minimal equipment to put down.
- Workforce development is minimal.
- It has proven to be safe when used as a palliative.





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Ideal Road and Materials

- Define project limits
- Establish drainage
- If necessary, refresh surface course
 - Ideally $\frac{3}{4}$ dense graded material with 8 to 15% passing 200 sieve.
 - Ideally a minimum of 4" thick for grading
- Establish grade
- If you have silt or clean sand, calcium chloride is not a good choice.



Application of Calcium Chloride

- Topically Applied
 - Liquid
 - Solid
- Mixed into Soil
 - Liquid
 - Solid
- Application rate
 - 1 to 1.5% by weight



Required Equipment

- Applied as a solid
 - Grader
 - Spreader
 - Water truck
 - Compactor (optional)
- Applied as a Liquid
 - Grader
 - Water Truck
 - Compactor (optional)
 - Forklift (optional)

Steps to Apply Solid Topical Application

- Shape Road
- Compact
- Loosen upper 2 inches
- Add Salt
- Water
- Compact



Steps to mix (2 to 4 inches)

- Windrow to centerline
- Add salt to windrow
- Blend
- Shape
- Water
- Compact



Steps to Typically Applied Brine

- Shape Road
- Apply Brine
- Compact





Steps to Blending Brine (2 to 4 inches)

- Loosen roadway to desired depth
- Apply Brine
- Blend
- Shape
- Compact



Worker Safety

- Provide coveralls, gloves, safety vests and safety glasses to all workers. Calcium chloride is a strong irritant.
- Provide plenty of drinking water.
- Provide showers at the end of the work shift.
- Consider providing hand creams and body lotions.



Equipment

Prevent corrosion by washing equipment at the end of every shift.

Thoroughly rinse brine tanks

Lubricate more frequently.



How much calcium chloride Should I use?

The target is 1% to 1.5% by weight of treated soil.

Assuming the surface course weighs 3,500 lbs/cy you would use

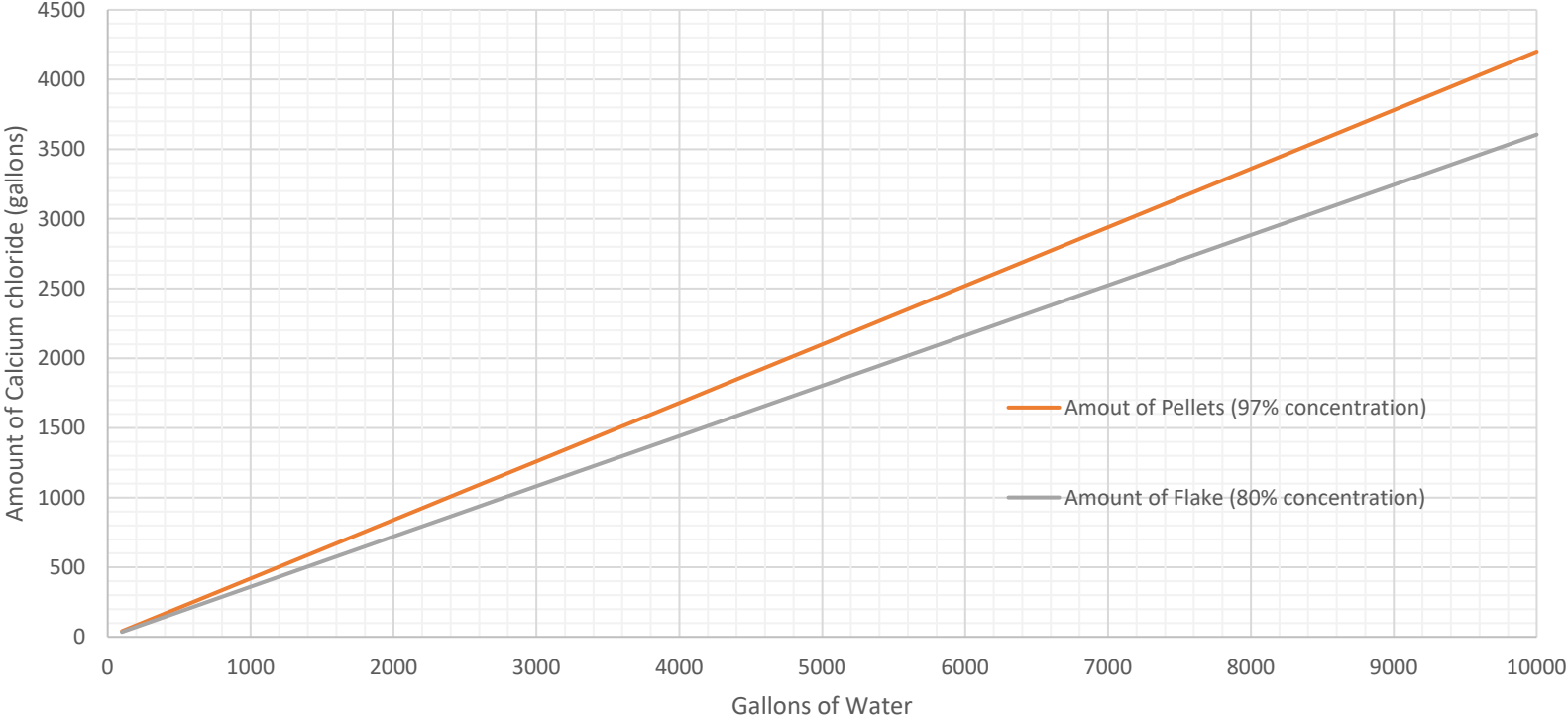
Between 35 lbs and 53 lbs, ($3,500 \times .01$), calcium chloride per yard of surfacing material.

Road Dust Control with Calcium Chloride Typically Applied

Equivalent Rates of Application

Flake	Pellet	Liquid (Concentrations)		
		38%	35%	32%
lbs./sq.yd.	lbs./sq.yd.	gal./sq.yd.		
0.5	0.41	0.09	0.1	0.11
0.75	0.61	1.13	0.15	0.16
1.00	0.82	0.17	0.19	0.22
1.25	1.02	0.22	0.24	0.27
1.50	1.23	0.26	0.29	0.33

Amount of Calcium Chloride (35% solution)





Parting thoughts

- There are several ways to apply calcium chloride. Choose the way that fits the equipment you have.
- Plan where you are going to apply calcium chloride carefully. Generally, focus on the higher trafficked areas.
- Plan early. Order early.
- Order bags if you can't handle super sacks.
- Keep the product dry.
- Protect your people and your equipment.

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Synthetic Fluids

- Petroleum Products with all aromatics removed
- Meet all EPA/DEC toxicity requirements
- Naturally clear liquid but may have additives
- Non-corrosive
- Considerably more expensive than CaCl_2
- Liquid below -40 F



Applying Synthetic Fluid



It has to be done right

An aerial photograph of a vast agricultural field, likely a cornfield, showing distinct rows of crops stretching towards the horizon. The field is dark green, and the rows are closely spaced. In the distance, a small white house with a dark roof is visible on the left side. The sky is a pale, clear blue. The overall scene is a wide, open landscape.

It has to be done right

It has to be done right

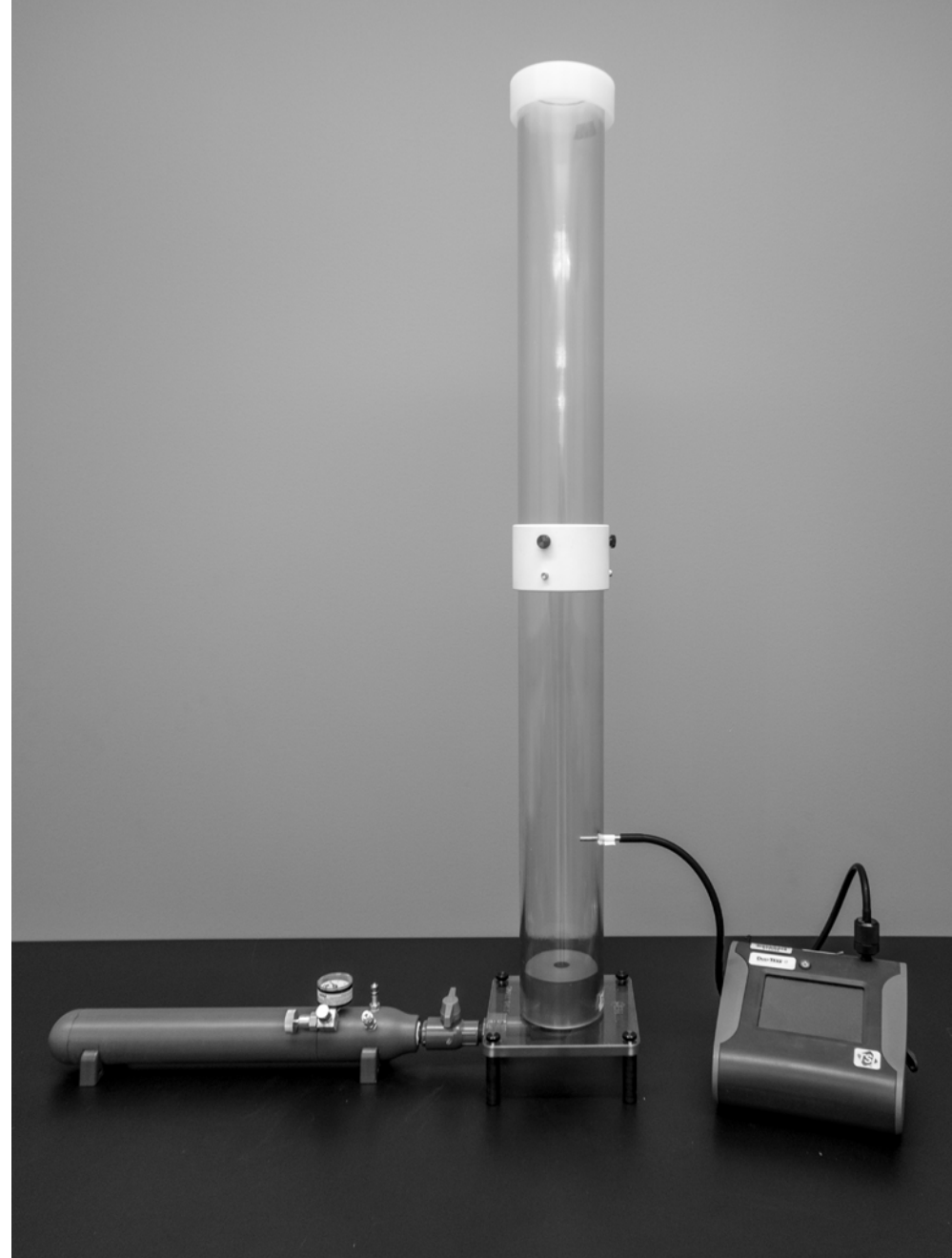
- Good Equipment is Not Expensive



Synthetic Fluid Considerations Product

- Types - Be sure product has been tested and has a good reputation - do your homework!
- Best to have a product that can withstand storage down to -50°F.
- Application rates - Too much wastes expensive product, too light results in poor performance. Determining the right rate requires testing.

Mini Dust Column used to test palliative





Application Rate

Application Rate sq. ft/gal	Avg t	Std. Dev.	% Reduction
30	3.243	1.898	92
40	6.243	2.788	85
50	8.045	3.298	81
60	9.791	3.664	77
Control	42.266	7.953	

Synthetic Fluid Considerations Product Application



Application -
use
appropriate
spraying
equipment -NO
WATER
TRUCKS!!

Synthetic Fluid Considerations Product Application

Application
may require
multiple
passes. Be
patient!



Synthetic Fluid Considerations

Product Maintenance

- Re-compact treated roads every few weeks.
- Protect your expensive treated road by controlling speed and aggressive driving.



Proper Fines is Critical

Proper fines content (passing the #200 sieve) is between 8 and 15% for untreated roads.



Off-the-shelf aerosol monitor

Intake

UAF-DUSTM Used for Monitoring Field Performance

The system is versatile



Reasons for Poor Performance

- Surface too sandy (low fines)
- Material too dense to allow penetration of the selected product
- Weather
- Too little product applied





<http://AIDC.UAF.EDU/TTAP>

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- Use of clay additives
- Polymer Stabilizers
- Chip Seals
- Recycled Asphalt
- Hot Asphalt Pavement



Questions?



Image courtesy of Subaru of America, Inc.

Available: http://www.subaru.com/enthusiasts/rally/article.html?uri=/rally/posts/08212012_085321/