100 - Mesa County Dust Control Program–Magnesium Chloride

Mesa County maintains over 700 miles of gravel or earthen surfaced roads. When traffic counts reach 150 vehicle trips per day, we evaluate and consider treating those roads with magnesium chloride, a dust palliative, to reduce fugitive dust.

These dust treatments substantially reduce fugitive dust on gravel roads for up to one year from the date of treatment. While dust is reduced during dry periods, the magnesium chloride treatment does not reduce muddy conditions when wet. The road surface will dry out and compact to a good driving surface within a few hours following a rain storm or snowfall.

Subsequent treatments of magnesium chloride are applied annually to maintain the effectiveness of the product. As the number of treatments of magnesium chloride is applied, the road surface becomes stabilized and the surface has a tendency to need less maintenance.

Mesa County, may at its option apply magnesium chloride to roads having lesser traffic volumes where roads have steep grades and/or curves that require stabilization thus reducing the frequency of maintenance.