

SMOKE AND AIR POLLUTION

"It's important to our efforts to understand and help address the risk our Veterans face not just from combat, but from the conditions in which they served," – Poteet, 2023



Exposure – Veterans who were deployed to the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and other dusty environments were often exposed to sand, dust, pollution, and other airborne particles. Military personnel who were deployed in these regions are at risk for developing respiratory problems (Poteet, 2023). Deserts are expanding, and sand and dust storms are becoming bigger and more common (Adams, 2023). This trend has created public health concerns about increased prevalence of respiratory illnesses and diseases among vulnerable Veterans.



Sand, Dust, Particulates – Larger particles such as sand may become trapped in the nose and throat but can be expelled by coughing or sneezing. Very small, fine particles (particulates) may cause more serious health problems because they can be inhaled deep into the lungs and airways. These extremely small particles and liquid droplets can include acids, chemicals, metals, soil, or dust.



Health Outcomes – Symptoms of sand, dust, and particulate exposure include irritation of the eyes, nose, throat, and skin. Other symptoms include cold or flu-like symptoms such as cough, runny nose, and shortness of breath. Pneumoconiosis is one of many interstitial lung diseases caused by inhaling certain kinds of toxic dust over long periods of time (Woods, 2023). Veterans may file a claim online for disability compensation for health problems they believe are related to sand, dust, and particulate exposure during military service.

To Learn More About Benefits and Eligibility Visit: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/health-concerns.asp>



@Military_VA



Military Veterans of America



@MilitaryVeteransofAmerica

*"Never was so much owed by so many to
so few."*

– Winston Churchill