Recommended Best Practices for Dust Mitigation/Control in Occupied Buildings with Active Construction

Please be advised the following information is a compilation of industry best practices for recommended use.

Physically Isolate Occupied Areas from Work Areas

Work inside occupied buildings should be physically separated from occupied areas by constructing temporary physical barriers. These barriers should be constructed of plywood and polyethylene plastic built in or over passageways between the construction area and the occupied spaces. Construction barriers should be sealed with polyethylene plastic and duct tape on the construction side as well as the occupied side to provide a duel barrier.

All areas in which pollutants move between construction and occupied areas should be examined and sealed. These areas include but are not limited to:

- Crawlspaces.
- Electrical outlets and light switches in shared walls.
- Pipe and electrical conduits between walls.
- Ventilation system ductwork.
- Holes in interior walls and/or spaces above interior walls and roof/floor decking (e.g., spaces above ceiling tile systems).

Outdoor construction-generated pollutants can migrate indoors under various conditions. The following are recommendations to reduce migration of outdoor pollutants to the indoor environment:

- Seal around exterior doors with weather stripping and door sweeps to prevent infiltration of outdoor construction-generated pollutants.
- Cover with tarps any dirt/debris piles in close proximity to the building or wet down dirt/ debris to decrease aerosolization of particulates, when possible.
- Instruct tenants to close and seal windows during times of active construction that may increase the volume of particulates in the air.
- Change HVAC filters more regularly in areas impacted by renovation activities. Upgrading to more efficient filters for these units should also be considered.
- Temporarily deactivate HVAC systems during construction generating high amounts of outdoor pollutants. If activity is longer than one day, alternative means of ventilation should be provided for the impacted areas. If this is not possible, relocation of activities in these areas should be considered.