

# **SLCC Particulates- Air Quality**

## **Overview**

There are many sources for particulates in the indoor environment. Office machines such as copiers, printers and fax machine generate particulates from the toner. Humans, as they move about the office, shed skin flakes that make up the bulk of particulate matter in the indoor environment. In general most people call this particulate material "dust". Every so often you may notice that the nature of the dust in your area is different, maybe you have noticed small black granules that you didn't notice before. You may come into work one morning to find your desk coated with what appears to be a fine yellow powder. There are a variety of explanations for these occurrences.

## **Natural particulates**

There are cases of both these occurrences in areas on campus, the black granules: analyzed under a microscope and found to be, quite literally, dirt; the yellow powder, a gift from Mother Nature, a huge release of tree pollen into the air intake for the building. Facilities maintenance personnel maintain filter systems on the air intakes for buildings on campus to help minimize the amount of particulates such as dirt and pollen that enter buildings on campus but sometimes things get through. Pollen may cause an allergic individual to experience a reaction but for the most part these particulates do not represent a hazardous situation - simply clean them off and you can get back business.

## **Construction-related particulates**

Construction can also introduce particulates into an area. If the situation is unbearable contact Facilities Division and ask to speak with the project manager overseeing the construction in the area. Remember that construction projects are of a limited duration.