Dust storms are a completely natural thing to occur...it’s a ‘natural disaster’. There are minor ones, major ones and some are really deadly.

What is a dust storm?

The name says it all. It’s a storm of dust. It’s hot, strong winds that pick up loose soil, dirt and sand and blow them across the country. They also need dryness to form. They often occur in the desert and will probably stay there, but, sometimes the winds keep blowing and the dust exits the desert. It then blows to another place.

What can you do about dust storms?

Dust storms are a natural disaster so you can’t stop them from occurring. You can help stop them from affecting you, though. Here are some tips if you get caught in a dust storm:

- Spend as little time outside as possible
- Avoid strength exercises
- Stay indoors with windows and doors shut

There is no real ‘Dust Storm Rescue Team’ because it would be pointless. You can’t just get rid of all that dust.

Who in particular do dust storms affect?

Everybody coughs or sneezes around dust. Imagine a cloud of dust about the size of Victoria. Dust storms can get that big. They can possibly be even larger. It will affect anyone caught in it.

There are people dust storms will most likely affect and possibly affect them even worse than a healthy adult. They are:
- Young children or babies
- Elderly
- People with respiratory conditions

E.g.
- Asthma
- Bronchitis
- Emphysema

For these people, the dust storm may trigger
- Allergic reactions
- Asthma attacks
- Irritation to eyes
- Serious breathing related problems
- Your life span to be reduced

This is all caused by dust storms.

**Where are they most likely to occur?**

Dust storms are a dust storm so what they need is...dust! This along with sand and soil can be picked up. Some people call them ‘sand storms’. You can definitely find all this in the desert or outback. You can find them anywhere with lots of loose earth. Here is a famous dust storm that blew across the US...

**Black Sunday - 14th of April 1935**

The cloud of dust first blew across Oklahoma panhandles at 4:00 pm far north-east then raced to the south east at 64 km per hour, the
temperatures rapidly dropping. The worst conditions were in Oklahoma and Texas panhandles dust racing all over the place. Wind speeds increased to 96 km per hour. It was so dark no one could see their own hands in front of their faces. The dust storm hit Beaver at 4:00, Boise Town at 5:15 and blew to Amarillo at 7:20 pm

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Don’t be surprised if you see a dust storm heading your way. There are loads of dust dirt and winds. Dust storms can be more dangerous than they seem. Many people die because of dust storms, if not become seriously ill.
Glossary

Asthma – a disease in which makes it hard to breathe

Bronchitis – an illness in which the lining of air passages in the chest become seriously ill.

Emphysema – an illness in which your lungs break down

Natural Disaster – a happening that causes suffering and damage that is caused by nature, not humans.

Respiratory – things to do with breathing
Bibliography

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