

Wall of sand engulfs Chinese town

April 27 2021



Aerial photos showed a sandstorm engulfing a village in Linze county, in the city of Zhangye in China's northwestern Gansu province

A towering wall of sand rushed over factories and apartment blocks in northwestern China's Gansu province as seasonal sandstorms barrelled across the country, causing air pollution and traffic accidents.

Aerial images as it struck showed an apocalyptic scene as a billowing

cloud of yellow dust smothered Gansu's Linze county on Sunday.

State media CCTV reported multiple car accidents in the province caused by low visibility, while meteorologists have warned people to stay indoors and keep windows shut with more storms expected across northern China on Tuesday.

China suffers from enormous dust storms each spring that lift sand from the Gobi desert and dump it onto cities as far away as Shandong on the eastern coast.

A sandstorm that pushed air pollution levels off the charts hit Beijing in March, turning the sky a dark yellow and forcing airlines to cancel hundreds of flights.

It was the worst sandstorm in a decade to hit the capital, which has pinned hopes of rebuilding a [natural barrier](#) to such phenomena on intensive tree replanting in stripped [forest areas](#), also known as the "green great wall".

Beijing said last year it expected fewer and weaker sandstorms to hit northern China due to the reforestation efforts.

© 2021 AFP

Citation: Wall of sand engulfs Chinese town (2021, April 27) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2021-04-wall-sand-engulfs-chinese-town.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--