



Tobacco Free County Facilities and Grounds

Purpose

Chronic diseases, such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and arthritis, are among the most common, costly, and preventable of all health problems in [_____] County and the U.S. The U.S. Surgeon General has determined that exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke and the use of tobacco are significant health hazards. Tobacco use is the leading modifiable health risk factor responsible for much of the illness, suffering, early death related to chronic disease.

Death and disability resulting from tobacco use costs [County] lives and dollars. In [Year], the economic burden of tobacco use in [_____] County was [\$_____] in direct medical costs and lost productivity due to early death.

Establishing tobacco free campuses will protect the public and employees from exposure to secondhand smoke, help people to quit and stay quit, as well as promote healthy community norms.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

Tobacco: Includes any smoking or smokeless product intended for human consumption that is comprised of or contains tobacco, and nicotine-delivery devices, such as electronic smoking devices, excluding FDA-approved nicotine replacement therapy products for the purpose of tobacco cessation.

County property: All interior spaces and vehicles and all outside property, including but not limited to parking areas, owned or controlled by [_____] County.

Scope

This policy applies to all [_____] County employees, volunteers, clients, visitors, vendors and contractors on property owned or controlled by [_____] County.

Policy

Effective [Month day year], the use, distribution, sale or advertising of tobacco products is not permitted at any time in and on County property including:

- a) within any interior spaces of facilities, b) on all outside property or grounds, including parks, natural areas, parking areas; and c) in vehicles owned by [_____] County.

If questions arise regarding the actual physical parameters of the prohibition for any particular County property, the chief administrative officer or designee shall provide a final determination.



Exceptions

This policy does not apply to the use of noncommercial tobacco for ceremonial, cultural, religious or medicinal activities that are in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, 42 U.S.C. section 1996. Exceptions for ceremonial, cultural, religious or medicinal tobacco use must be pre approved by [_____].

Communication of Policy

Signs stating [_____] County's tobacco-free policy are considered the first line of enforcement for this policy. Signs will be clearly posted on the perimeter of the property, at all entrances and exits, and in other prominent places. This policy is the shared responsibility of all [_____] County personnel. Employees are authorized and encouraged to communicate this policy with courtesy, respect and diplomacy to the public, vendors, volunteers or others.

Compliance

Any person who observes an employee violating the policy is encouraged to address the noncompliance with the employee in question. If difficulties arise with compliance, an employee shall notify security or a management-level staff member. Management and supervisory staff are responsible for ongoing compliance with this policy within their respective work areas. In addition, management and supervisory staff are expected to adhere to standard practice in resolving any issues of noncompliance.

Cessation Assistance

[_____] County is committed to assisting employees, volunteers, clients, visitors, vendors and contractors in overcoming tobacco dependency. [_____] County employees have access to tobacco cessation programs and medications (when indicated) as part of their standard medical benefits. In addition, [_____] County will communicate the policy to all current and new employees and shall provide ongoing support and resources to employees as part of the policy implementation. Members of the public, County volunteers, interns and clients may be referred to Oregon's Tobacco Quit Line, 1-800-QUIT NOW, which is a free tobacco cessation resource.

Developed for State of Oregon, Tobacco Prevention and Education Program
by The Rede Group