

DIVISION 100 – COOS COUNTY SMOKING/TOBACCO POLICY

2.100 Policy

Effective October 1, 2015 the use, distribution, or sale of smoking/tobacco products, or advertising of tobacco industry sponsored products is not permitted at any time in and on County property including, but not limited to: any properties, natural areas, and worksites owned or controlled by Coos County; entryways; outdoor areas such as parks and the Fairgrounds; and vehicles and equipment. If questions arise regarding the actual physical parameters of the prohibition for any particular County property, the board of County Commissioners or designee shall provide a final determination.

2.120 Purpose

To promote the long-term health and safety of employees and the public.

Chronic diseases, such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and arthritis, are among the most common, costly, and preventable of all health problems in Coos 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, and early death related to chronic disease.

Death and disability resulting from tobacco use costs Coos County lives and dollars. In 2013 the economic burden of tobacco use in Coos County was \$73 million 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, as well as promote healthy community norms. This policy is also essential to our ongoing responsibility to steward public resource and the environment. Smoking is estimated to be the number one cause of fire related death and injury, and is a major cause of wild-land fires. The environmental impact of smoking is also large as cigarette filters are toxic and are the most frequently littered item.

2.130 Definition – for purpose of this policy

Smoking/Tobacco: Includes any smoking, smokeless tobacco and inhalant delivery system intended to deliver nicotine, cannabinoids or other substances, excluding FDA-approved nicotine replacement therapy products for the purpose of tobacco cessation.

2.140 Scope

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

2.150 Exceptions

This policy does not apply to:

- (a) 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 Coos County Tobacco and Prevention Coordinator.
- (b) Individual campsites that house a fire ring or fire pit.
- (c) One designated smoking area during the Coos County Fair. This area will be defined by the Coos County Fair map. This area will be clearly marked. Minors under the age of 18 will not be allowed in designated smoking area.
- (d) Personal vehicles.
- (e) Personal clothing branded by smoking/tobacco companies.

2.160 Communication of Policy

Signs communicating Coos County's smoking/tobacco policy are considered the first line of enforcement for this policy. Smokefree Oregon QuitLine information will be posted on the property. The communication of this policy is the shared responsibility of all Coos County personnel. Employees are authorized and encouraged to communicate this policy with courtesy, respect and diplomacy to the public, vendors, volunteers or others.

2.170 Compliance

Any person who observes anyone violating the policy is encouraged to address the noncompliance in a polite and friendly manner. If difficulties arise with compliance, an employee shall notify 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.

2.180 Cessation Assistance

Coos County is committed to assisting employees, volunteers, interns, clients, visitors, vendors and contractors in overcoming tobacco dependency. Coos County employees have access to tobacco cessation programs and medications (when indicated) as part of their standard medical benefits. In addition, Coos 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.