

Facts About Smoking & Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

Fact: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officially classifies SHS as a Class A Carcinogen, one that causes cancer in humans.

Fact: SHS causes an estimated 53,000 deaths annually in the U.S., about 2/3 from heart disease and about 4,000 from lung cancer. Passive smoking can result in aggravated asthmatic conditions and impaired blood circulation.

Fact: Tobacco kills more people than alcohol, AIDS, illicit drugs, auto accidents, suicide, homicides, and fire COMBINED!

Fact: Tobacco-caused diseases remain the chief preventable cause of death. It is directly responsible for an estimated 400,000 deaths each year, that is 46 persons per hour, or one out of every five deaths.

Fact: Smoking makes lung cancer the #1 cancer killer of American men and women.

Fact: Smoking is the cause of about 30% of all cancer deaths and 87% of lung cancer cases overall.

Fact: Smoking increases the risk of miscarriage, lowers birth weight, raises a baby's chances of complications at delivery and the likelihood of health problems during infancy.

Fact: A 1990 Gallup Poll showed that almost 2/3 of smokers say they would like to quit.

Fact: Tobacco smoke contains more than 4,700 chemical compounds, including carbon monoxide, nicotine, sulfur dioxide, ammonia, vinyl chloride, hydrogen cyanide, formaldehyde, benzene, and arsenic. The EPA treats many of these compounds as hazardous when they are emitted into outdoor air by toxic waste dumps and chemical plants.

Call for Free Resources

Help create a smokefree environment by contacting the *Peninsula Smokefree Partnership* at **907-260-3682** or e-mail: tcap@alaska.net

For assistance in quitting smoking, contact Alaska's Tobacco QUIT LINE at **888-842-7848** ~ It's free!

Our Mission

The *Peninsula Smokefree Partnership* is committed to creating, implementing and maintaining policies that support reducing premature death, disease, disability and the economic burden related to tobacco use and/or exposure to second-hand smoke by preventing the initiation of tobacco use among youngsters, promoting quitting, and eliminating exposure to second-hand smoke.

**Simply
Breathe
~
Tobacco
Free**

**Create A
Smokefree
Workplace**

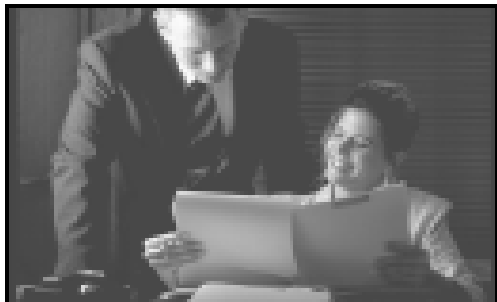


U.S. businesses are becoming increasingly sensitive to health and safety practices at the worksite that protect employees. The company leadership seeks to provide the healthiest environment possible to enhance productivity, provide for the wellbeing of employees, and prevent lawsuits that may result from an unhealthy or unsafe worksite.

Given what we now know about the effects of smoking on nonsmokers, it is absolutely necessary for companies to move towards establishment of 100% smokefree working conditions.

To encourage healthier communities, it is the goal of the *Peninsula Smokefree Partnership* to significantly increase the number of worksites that provide worker benefits, programs, services, and materials which support prevention and cessation of tobacco use.

Provided in this brochure is information which will provide you with important facts about smoking and will direct you to resources designed to help move your company toward a 100% smokefree, healthy work environment.



Benefits of a Smokefree Workplace

For the employees

- A smokefree environment helps create a safe, healthful workplace.
- A well planned and carefully implemented effort by the employers to address the effects of smoking on employees' health and the health of their families shows the company cares.
- Workers who are bothered by smoke will not be exposed to it at the worksite.
- Smokers appreciate a clear company policy about smoking at work.
- Managers are relieved when a process for dealing with smoking in the workplace is clearly defined.

For the employer

- A smokefree environment helps create a safe, healthful workplace.
- Direct health care costs to the company may be reduced.
- Lower absenteeism due to smoking related illnesses.
- Maintenance costs go down when smoke, matches, and cigarette butts are eliminated in facilities.
- Office equipment, carpets, and furniture last longer.
- It may be possible to negotiate lower health, life, and disability coverage as employee smoking is reduced.
- The risk of fires is lower.
- Managers are relieved when a process for dealing with smoking in the workplace is clearly defined.

Source: *Making Your Workplace Smokefree: A Decision Maker's Guide.*

Economic Impact of Smoking In the Workplace

- Estimates of the excess annual cost per smoking employee vary, but conservative estimates are \$1,300 per smoker per year.
- Indirect costs of smoking to society, such as lost productivity from increased absenteeism and productive years of lives lost, are enormous. For 1990 the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment estimated that indirect costs from smoking-attributable illness and death totaled \$47.2 billion.
- Smokers are absent from work 50% more often than nonsmokers, have twice as many on-the-job accidents, and are 50% more likely to be hospitalized than workers who do not smoke.
- Recognizing that employees of smoke-free companies overall may be healthier year-round, many insurers are inclined to give those companies a break on premiums. Some fire and casualty companies, for example, will cut their premiums by 50%.
- Smoking-attributable direct health care costs in the U.S. equals approximately \$75.5 billion.
- Direct health care costs linked to smoking are equal to \$3.45 per pack of cigarettes sold in the U.S. during fiscal year 1989.

Breathe Easy... Get more information

- Our workplace is voluntarily 100% smoke-free*
- We are interested in knowing more about going smokefree*
- We are interested in partnering with the *Peninsula Smokefree Partnership* towards policy change for Kenai/Soldotna

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

Fax (____) _____

E-mail address _____

*100% Smokefree Guidelines: the inside area of the entire workplace must be 100% smokefree all the time. Workplaces that have smoking areas are not considered to be 100% smokefree.



**Good for Health ...
Good for Business**