

SMOKE-FREE CONTRA COSTA



WHAT TO SAY IF YOU SEE SOMEONE SMOKING ON COUNTY PROPERTY

AS OF MARCH 1, 2015 ALL CONTRA COSTA COUNTY-OWNED AND LEASED PROPERTIES WILL BE 100% SMOKE-FREE.

You can help make Contra Costa smoke-free! If you see someone smoking in a prohibited area you may want to consider the following options:

- If you feel comfortable you may respectfully inform these individuals of the County law prohibiting smoking or using electronic smoking devices anywhere on the property. See the “Suggested Language” section for ideas about how to start the conversation.
- You may also hand them a “Smoke-free Policy Reminder Card” (to order cards, email tobaccopreventionproject@hsd.cccounty.us or call 1-888-877-4202). The cards will serve as a tool for individuals to notify smokers who are not familiar or in compliance with the policy.
- Individuals may also choose to engage Sheriff’s deputies on the premises to address the situation as appropriate.

ATTITUDE

We want to protect the health of everyone while they are on County property while respecting community members. These communication guidelines provide language to inform and educate violators to stop smoking without provoking a confrontation or creating bad feelings.



SmokeFreeCC.org

SUGGESTED LANGUAGE

1. If the person smoking appears to be unaware of the law, you might begin by handing them a “Smokefree CC” policy card [[link to web page where can get these](#)] and saying something like:

"Excuse me. I'm sorry to interrupt you but smoking is no longer permitted on County property. People are now asked to go off the property if they want to smoke. Smoking is permitted beyond that point [indicate where the property ends]."

2. If the person smoking does not respond by extinguishing his or her smoking product, you might say something like...

"I understand that it may be inconvenient, but it's important for the health of all of our staff and visitors that people not smoke on the campus while they are here. If you are going to continue to smoke, you'll need to move off the property. Thanks for your cooperation."

3. If the person still refuses to abide by the smoke-free policy...

Let the matter drop and report the encounter here: <http://cchealth.org/tobacco/smokefree/violation.php> or, if appropriate/available notify a sheriff's deputy.

4. If the person becomes confrontational or abusive...

Walk away. If you fear for your safety—call 911. Report the encounter to the feedback link listed here: <http://cchealth.org/tobacco/smokefree/violation.php>