

SMOKING & TOBACCO POLICY

The Town of Westminster, in order to comply with the provisions of 18 VSA 1421, et seq., has established this policy to protect workers by prohibiting smoking and use of smokeless tobacco products in the workplace except in designated areas.

The United States Surgeon General, in his 1986 report on Involuntary Smoking, concluded:

- Involuntary Smoking is a cause of disease, including lung cancer, in healthy nonsmokers;
- The simple separation of smokers and nonsmokers within the same air space may reduce, but does not eliminate, the exposure of nonsmokers to environmental tobacco smoke.

In 1993, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classified environmental tobacco smoke as a Group A carcinogen, that is, a substance known to cause cancer in humans. The EPA recognizes no safe level of exposure for Group A carcinogens.

Smokeless tobacco is a significant health risk and is not a safe substitute for smoking cigarettes. According to the Centers for Disease Control, smokeless tobacco contains 28 cancer-causing agents (carcinogens). It is a known cause of human cancer, as it increases the risk of developing cancer of the oral cavity, other oral health problems, and can lead to nicotine addiction and dependence.

In light of these findings, The Town of Westminster shall be entirely smoke and tobacco free.

Smoking and use of smokeless tobacco products is strictly prohibited within all Town owned vehicles and within the Town Hall including offices, hallways, reception area, restrooms, meeting rooms and all other work areas.

This policy applies to all employees, clients, contractors, and visitors. Smoking may only occur at a reasonable distance (e.g., 30 feet or more) outside any enclosed area where smoking is prohibited to insure that environmental tobacco smoke does not enter the area through entrances, windows, ventilation systems or any other means. A copy of this policy is available in the Town Managers Office.

Adopted by the Selectboard on October 13, 2009