

# Smoke-Free Outdoor Areas

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ: PERTAINING TO SMOKING CONTROL

## FACT SHEET

### Law Summary:

Effective October 22, 2009, Sections 6.04.020, 6.05.060 & 6.04.100 of the Santa Cruz Municipal code bans smoking in the following places:

- Within 25ft of any door or window used by the public
- Outdoor common areas in multi-unit housing facilities
- Pacific Avenue, West Cliff Drive, Beach Street between the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf and Third Street.
- The Municipal Wharf
- Park, beaches, recreational trails including all their adjacent landscape and bench areas.
- In all outdoor dining areas in the city, such as coffee shops and restaurants.
- Abbott Square (behind Museum of Art and History)
- The new rules also require that ninety percent of the guest rooms in every hotel and motel be maintained as fixed nonsmoking rooms.



### Purpose of the Law:

As a result of this law, residents and visitors of the city of Santa Cruz will breathe less secondhand smoke. It will also help reduce cigarette litter on streets and highways, reduce fire hazard, and help smokers to quit.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has classified secondhand smoke as a carcinogen for which there is no safe level of exposure. At special risk are children, elderly people, individuals with cardiovascular disease, and individuals with impaired respiratory function. Health hazards induced by breathing secondhand smoke include lung cancer, heart disease, respiratory infection, and decreased respiratory function. Cigarette butts are a pervasive form of litter in the City of Santa Cruz, on streets and on the parks and beaches, and hence constitute a public nuisance as well as a health hazard.

### What is the fine for violators of this law?

Violators can be fined up to \$25 for smoking in the aforementioned areas.

**The science is clear:**  
secondhand smoke  
is toxic indoors *and*  
outdoors

### Where can I get more information?

Contact your local health department's tobacco control program.

### Where can I find helpful information on quitting smoking?

Californians who would like help to quit smoking can contact the California Smokers' Helpline at 1-800-NO-BUTTS (English), 1-800-45-NO-FUME (Spanish) or [www.NoButts.org](http://www.NoButts.org) for a free personalized quitting plan.



1. Department of Health and Human Services, Surgeon General's Report on involuntary secondhand smoke exposure. 2006
2. Ott, Klepeis, and Switzer. Air Change Rates of Pollutant Concentration for Secondhand Smoke, 2007
3. Matt. Households Contaminated by Environmental Tobacco Smoke: Sources of Infant Exposure. 2004