



## California Air Resources Board Declares Second Hand Smoke Is a Toxic Air Contaminant\* January 26, 2006

### What is a Toxic Air Contaminant (TAC)?

A Toxic Air Contaminant (TAC) is an air pollutant which may cause or contribute to an increase in deaths or serious illness, or which may pose a present or potential hazard to human health. **The Air Resources Board unanimously found that tobacco smoke harms not only the smoker, but innocent bystanders as well. Secondhand Smoke joins benzene, arsenic, and diesel exhaust on the TAC list.** The unanimous decision by the Cal EPA's Air Resources Board to declare Secondhand Smoke (SHS) to be a Toxic Air Contaminant was based on a rigorous four year, scientific study that included public comment and independent peer review.

### What does tobacco smoke add to California's air each year?

Each year tobacco smoke adds the following to California's air:

- 40 tons of nicotine
- 365 tons of soot and ash
- 1,900 tons of carbon monoxide

### What are the health effects of exposure to Secondhand Smoke?

Each year in California, secondhand tobacco smoke is linked to:

- 400 additional lung cancer deaths a year in nonsmokers
- 3,600 deadly heart attacks and
- 31,000 asthma attacks in children.
- **State scientists also concluded for the first time that Secondhand Smoke can increase the risk of breast cancer in pre-menopausal women (women under the age of 50) by 68%.**

### How many Californians are exposed?

Despite strict indoor workplace laws and scattered ordinances related to outdoor smoking, 56% of adults (over age 18), 64% of adolescents (12-17 years) and 38% of children (0-11 years) are currently being exposed to Secondhand Smoke.

### What are the next steps for the Air Resources Board (ARB)?

The ARB must undertake a "risk management" analysis to determine options to reduce exposure to and management of secondhand smoke. This is expected to result in recommendations to the state legislature for new laws and enactment of regulations.

## **Can the state, local communities and businesses act immediately to protect themselves and citizens?**

Yes. In fact, the city of Calabasas recently enacted a comprehensive ordinance making the city smoke-free except on private property. Many other opportunities exist for action such as:

- State legislation banning smoking in cars with children.
- Designation of secondhand smoke as a public or private nuisance by local or state government
- Smoking bans in outdoor dining areas, parks, beaches
- Smoking bans in multi-family housing common indoor and outdoor areas
- Smoking bans in apartment units and condominiums.

The possibilities are endless.

## **Where are most Californians exposed to Secondhand Smoke?**

### **APARTMENTS and CARS**

The rental housing industry is increasingly interested in appealing to the 85% of Californians who do not smoke by adopting voluntary smoke-free policies throughout their rental properties.

Developers, owners and managers of multi-family housing are moving quickly to protect their tenants, their property and their bottom line by offering smoke-free units and buildings. They have learned that there is no constitutional right to smoke and that “no smoking” policies are as legal as “no pets” or “no loud noise” policies.

Renters are quickly becoming aware and alarmed enough to seek out and ask for smoke-free premises. More and more nonsmokers are no longer willing to be forced to breathe a toxic air contaminant because a neighbor is smoking on a balcony or because common walls, hallways and ventilation systems do not allow them to choose clean air.

**The California Air Resources Board has revealed that exposure to secondhand smoke is extremely unhealthy. Now tenants and landlords both are learning that it is also unnecessary.**

**\*Source: All statistics and data in this fact sheet originate in the Executive Summary Report of the California Air Resources Board, CalEPA- as approved by the Scientific Review Panel on June 24, 2005.**

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