FACTS ABOUT SECONDHAND SMOKE

Secondhand smoke causes between 35,000 and 40,000 deaths from heart disease every year. 1 3000 otherwise healthy nonsmokers will die of lung cancer annually because of their exposure to secondhand smoke.2 These deaths occur because tobacco users are not the only ones who breathe smoke—all the people around them inhale it too. Unfortunately, non-smoking and ventilated public spaces cannot filter or circulate air at the rate necessary to eliminate secondhand smoke.3

What is Secondhand Smoke?

• Secondhand smoke is the combination of smoke emitted from the burning ends of a tobacco product (sidestream smoke) and the smoke exhaled from the lungs of tobacco users (mainstream smoke).4
• Secondhand smoke contains over 4000 substances, more than 60 of which are known or suspected to cause cancer.5 Some of the deadly substances in secondhand smoke and the cancers they cause are:
  o Arsenic, benzo(a)pyrene, cadmium, chromium, nickel, and NNK → lung cancer
  o Nitrosamines → cancers of the lung, respiratory system, and other organs
  o Aromatic amines → bladder and breast cancers
  o Formaldehyde and nickel → nasal cancer
  o Benzene → leukemia
  o Vinyl chloride → liver and brain cancer
  o 2-naphthylamine and 4-aminobiphenyl → bladder cancer
  o Lead → liver cancer
• Three of the above carcinogens -- arsenic, benzene, and vinyl chloride -- are regulated in the United States as hazardous air pollutants. Two of the bladder carcinogens -- 2-naphthylamine and 4-aminobiphenyl are banned for use in dye manufacturing.6
• The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has classified secondhand smoke as a Group A carcinogen, a substance which is known to cause human cancer.7

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