

Facts about Smoking

Right to Smoke

- There is no constitutional provision, federal law, or state statute that gives someone the right to smoke. The court proceeded to hold that smoking is not a specially protected constitutional right and that the fundamental right to privacy “does not include the right to inflict health-destructive secondhand smoke upon other persons.” In fact, the legal system has said “there is no more fundamental right to smoke cigarettes than there is to shoot up or smoke heroin or cocaine or to run a red light.”

Secondhand Smoke

- Globally, exposure to secondhand smoke kills more than 600,000 children and adults each year and is the No. 1 cause of preventable death, disease, and disability.
- In Florida, 82.4 percent of people do not smoke.
- Tobacco smoke can move along air ducts, through cracks in the walls and floors, through elevator shafts, and along plumbing and electrical lines to affect apartment homes on other floors. Research demonstrates that up to 65 percent of air can be exchanged between homes.
- Secondhand smoke contains a deadly mix of more than 7,000 chemicals, including hundreds that are toxic and 69 that can cause cancer.

Smoking-Related Fires

- An estimated 9,000 smoking-related fires occur in residential buildings in the U.S. each year.
- Smoking-related fires are the leading cause of fire deaths, accounting for ~~14~~ 17 percent of civilian fire deaths in residential buildings. About one-third of the victims are children.
- Smoking-related fires are eight times more likely to result in death than fires that start from another source.
- Smoking-related fires in residential buildings result in an average of approximately 365 deaths, 925 injuries, and \$326 million in property loss each year.

The Cost Benefits of Smoke-free Housing

- Smoke-free policies can eliminate the need to repair or replace carpeting, floors, fixtures, countertops or appliances damaged by burns or nicotine stains.
- At the end of a lease, smoke-free units require less turnover time due to fewer preparation and repainting needs.
- Landlords and property managers can save money with insurance discounts some property insurance companies offer to buildings with no-smoking policies.