Fire-Safe Cigarettes Can Save Lives!

Cigarette-Related Residential Fire Deaths and Injuries in Oklahoma, 1988-2006
Cigarettes are a leading cause of residential fires and related burn injuries and deaths in Oklahoma

- Approximately 20% of all residential fires with a resulting injury are cigarette-related.
- From 1988-2006, cigarette-related residential fires resulted in the deaths of 257 Oklahomans and 91 others were hospitalized in a burn center.
- The average age of those injured or killed was 48 years; ages ranged from less than 1 year to 90 years.
- Smokers and nonsmokers were injured: 24 Oklahoma children (under 18 years) died and six were hospitalized in a burn center.
- The majority of fires originated from cigarettes smoldering and igniting couches, chairs, and mattresses/bedding.
- One-half of all injured people were asleep when the fire began.
- Of cases with a known smoke alarm status, only 20% had a working smoke alarm present.

Fire-Safe Cigarettes (reduced ignition propensity cigarettes):

- Use a special banded paper, such that when left unattended, the cigarette will extinguish itself when reaching one of two or three bands.
- Reduce burning time, so that furniture, bedding, and other materials do not have time to ignite.
- Have shown no significant differences in toxicity when compared to conventional cigarettes and should have no difference in taste.
- Do not cause smokers to behave in more careless ways.
- Prevent fires, unlike smoke alarms and sprinkler systems.
- Are well within the manufacturing capabilities of the tobacco industry.
- Have shown no evidence of costing more to the consumer or retailer.

Fire-Safe Cigarette Legislation

- On January 1, 2009, Oklahoma's legislation became effective mandating only the sale of fire-safe cigarettes in Oklahoma.
- Oklahoma has joined the majority of the country in implementing such legislation; however, eight states still have not taken any action on the issue.
- New York was the first state with a fire safety standard for cigarettes (signed in 2003). In 2005, Canada became the first country to implement a standard nationwide.