THE DANGERS OF SECONDHAND SMOKE

• Secondhand smoke (SHS) is a Class A carcinogen. Like radon and asbestos, prolonged exposure to secondhand smoke is known to cause cancer in both humans and domestic animals.

• Secondhand smoke contains over 7,000 compounds, at least 70 of which are known to cause cancer. This cocktail of deadly chemicals includes:
   - **Formaldehyde** – Used to preserve dead bodies
   - **Hydrogen Cyanide** – Used to make chemical weapons
   - **Ethylene Oxide** – Used to make anti-freeze
   - **Arsenic** – A deadly pesticide
   - **Polonium-210** – A radioactive element
   - **Cadmium** – A toxic metal used in batteries
   - **Benzene** – A component of gasoline and crude oil

• SHS is more toxic than mainstream smoke inhaled directly by smokers.

• Besides cancer, SHS causes numerous serious illnesses including: asthma, emphysema, sinus infections, ear infections, chronic cough, sudden infant death syndrome and heart disease.

• After just five minutes of exposure, the main artery carrying blood from the aorta stiffens as much as if the person had actually smoked a cigarette. This causes the heart to work harder to pump blood.

• SHS can impair coronary circulation in as little as 30 minutes of exposure.

• SHS exposure can cause heart attacks and strokes.

• More than 50,000 deaths per year are attributed to secondhand smoke exposure. 700 of these deaths are in Oklahoma. Causes of death include heart disease and lung cancer.

• SHS causes more than 150,000 cases of pneumonia and bronchitis each year in infants under 18 months of age.

• Secondhand smoke is highly toxic to pets. It causes numerous forms of cancer as well as allergic reactions resulting in scratching, biting and chewing of the skin.

• The U.S. Surgeon General has declared that there is no safe level of exposure to SHS.