

DIRECTOR'S  
NEWS UPDATE



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## Governor's Executive Order on Tobacco

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On February 6, 2012, Executive Order 2012-01 was signed by Governor Mary Fallin. This Order prohibits use of any tobacco product on any and all properties owned, leased, or contracted for use by the State of Oklahoma, including, but not limited to all buildings, land, and vehicles owned, leased, or contracted for use by agencies or instrumentalities of the State of Oklahoma.

The Department of Corrections supports Executive Order 2012-01 through issuance of OP-150601, "Tobacco Regulations". Therefore community facilities, halfway houses and minimum security facilities will also be tobacco free. OP-150601 is being updated and will soon be issued.

The use of tobacco has been shown to be a contributing factor to illness and early death. Further, tobacco smoke in the air (secondhand or passive smoke) has been classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a cause of cancer. In addition to being a health hazard, smoke in the air at the work place causes discomfort to many nonsmoking employees and visitors.

Smokeless tobacco also presents health hazards to the users and lends itself to creating unsanitary conditions

for nonusers. In a workplace where smoking has been eliminated and offenders are assigned to live and work, the presence of smokeless tobacco and tobacco-like products presents a contraband issue. For these reasons, the use or possession of all tobacco and tobacco-like products will be prohibited while on state property.

In order to facilitate transition toward a tobacco-free environment, the following time frames and guidelines will be followed:

Effective June 22, 2012, canteens will no longer purchase tobacco and tobacco-like products; existing stock may be sold through July 30, 2012.

Facility/unit heads will be responsible for ensuring that smoking cessation classes are offered for both staff and offenders and continued on an ongoing basis.

Canteens will begin offering smoking cessation products, i.e., nicotine patches. The cost of smoking cessation products will not be counted against the offender's weekly draw amount, and will be provided at cost, with no canteen markup.

Facilities/units should ensure that it is specified that the Department of Corrections is a tobacco-free workplace on any recruitment information.

Effective August 6, 2012, all tobacco and tobacco-like products will be considered contraband and smoking will be prohibited for all staff and offenders on property owned, contracted for, or leased by the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

Facility/unit heads will be responsible for providing notification to visitors, volunteers, and vendors of the new tobacco-free program. This will be accomplished through printed signage supplied by Oklahoma Correctional Industries.

It is the responsibility of all employees to adhere to and enforce these new procedures. By doing so, we will provide a safer and healthier environment for both staff and offenders.