

NO SMOKING POLICY OF THE BALLINGER HOUSING AUTHORITY

Effective February 1, 2010, Smoking is not permitted in any

- apartments
- management / maintenance building
- Community Building

in accordance with the following guidelines.

This policy applies to

- all current residents
- all employees
- all guests
- all new residents
- all persons on Housing Authority property for any purpose

EXEMPT CURRENT RESIDENTS

Current residents who smoke inside their apartment may continue to do so until January 31, 2011. After this date, smoking inside the apartment will cease.

Any deviation from the smoke-free policy by any tenant, a member of their household, or their guest will be considered a lease violation.

SMOKING AREAS

All residents, guests, employees and anyone else on Housing Authority Property may smoke outside buildings so long as it is not offensive to non-smokers in the area. All residents, guests, employees must provide themselves a fireproof container in which to put the cigarette out and hold the remains until the vessel is emptied. The container must be emptied on a regular basis.

No one is allowed to dispose of cigarette butts on the grounds of the complexes.

Each resident who smokes is responsible for their own container to hold the cigarette butts and the maintenance of the container.

This policy is adopted due to the following reasons:

Health Risks. Because Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) can migrate between units in multifamily housing, causing respiratory illness, heart disease, cancer, and other adverse health effects in neighboring families. Smoking is also an important source of fires and fire-related deaths and injuries.

Maintenance. It is well known that turnover costs are increased when apartments are vacated by smokers. Additional paint to cover smoke stains, cleaning of the ducts, replacing stained window blinds, or replacing carpets that have been damaged by cigarettes can increase the cost to make a unit occupant ready.