



HUD Toughens No Smoking Policy

HUD in 2015 launched a no-smoking policy for all of its public housing communities with the nation's more than 3,300 public housing authorities directed to implement such a policy as they saw fit for their communities.

Almost three years later, with the number of fires escalating in public housing, HUD has shifted emphasis and now wants to make no smoking mandatory for public and assisted housing properties inside and outside.

HUD says each PHA must implement a policy banning lit tobacco products in all living units, indoor common areas in public housing, and in PHA administrative office buildings. The smoke-free policy must extend to all outdoor areas up to 25 feet from the housing and administrative office buildings.

Now, HUD wants PHAs to implement smoke-free policies no later than July 31. The department made a no-smoking rule final in December, the result of increased risk of fire, maintenance costs, and the known effects of secondhand smoke.

HUD defines smoking as inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or other prohibited tobacco product in any manner or any form. The policy will apply to public housing employees, household members, guests, and service people.

A first violation will bring a warning. Second and third violations will result in \$10 and \$25 fines respectively. A fourth violation will trigger a 30-day eviction notice.

Info: See the new rule at www.cdpublications.com/docs/9391

2/9/18 10:20 AM