



FAQ's on Tobacco Free El Paso County

What is El Paso County's tobacco-free policy?

The use of any tobacco – including cigars, cigarettes, pipe tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and smokeless tobacco – is prohibited inside and outside of all El Paso County-owned or leased buildings and adjacent areas, including parking lots, garages, etc. It only excludes the Ascarate Golf Course and the El Paso County Coliseum. [Click here to view the Tobacco-Free Worksite Policy.](#)

When does the policy take effect?

The policy took effect January 1, 2017.

Who does the tobacco-free policy affect?

Any persons entering County Facilities including but not limited to employees, subcontractors, invitees, or visitors.

How will the tobacco-free policy be communicated?

Tobacco-Free signs will be posted in all County facilities and the policy will be announced through the communication outlets used by El Paso County to include its website, Intranet, press release and emails.

How will this policy make a positive difference for El Paso County?

El Paso County is committed to providing safe and healthy worksites and to promote the health and wellness of employees, subcontractors, and visitors utilizing County of El Paso Facilities. We are joining a national trend of more than 1,400 other counties and cities that have gone smoke-free.

Will the tobacco-free policy be in effect during non-business hours, including government holidays and weekends?

The tobacco-free policy is in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Will there still be designated smoking areas?

Properties will not have designated smoking areas.

Is smoking or tobacco use allowed in personal vehicles?

Smoking and the use of tobacco are not permitted in personal vehicles if the vehicle is on the property of El Paso County.

What are the consequences for people who violate the tobacco-free policy?

Employees who violate or permit others to violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action. Subcontractors who violate this policy are subject to termination of existing contract with the County of El Paso. Visitors or invitees who violate this policy are subject to removal from the County property.

What should I do if I see someone smoking or using other tobacco products?

It is possible that a person smoking or using tobacco produces is unaware of the tobacco-free policy. Kindly inform him/her that El Paso County has gone tobacco-free, and ask them to extinguish their tobacco product. If this fails, please contact your immediate supervisor or security as appropriate.

What resources are available to help those who want to quit using tobacco products? Does UTEP provide tobacco cessation services?

There are several options available for those who wish to quit. For more information visit [Smokefree](#), [setyourdate](#) and [Aetna Resources for Living](#) (username: epcounty password: eap).