

Policy Statement

TITLE	CODE
Tobacco Free Policy	101

REFERENCE

NA

PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE

All City Employees

EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon Adoption

POLICY

101.100 – Purpose

The City of Bemidji is committed to protecting and promoting the health, safety, and welfare of its employees and residents.

Tobacco use is the single largest cause of preventable, premature death. A recent report by the U.S. Surgeon General documents the serious and deadly health effects of involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke. Secondhand smoke is a major cause of disease, including lung cancer and coronary heart disease, in healthy, nonsmokers. This policy will reduce death and disease caused by tobacco use such as heart attacks, lung cancer, oral cancer and other serious and costly illnesses.

Additionally, tobacco products, once consumed in public spaces, are often discarded on the ground requiring additional maintenance, diminishing the beauty of city parks and public facilities, and posing a risk to toddlers and pets due to ingestion.

The City of Bemidji has an obligation to its employees and the public to take action known to protect peoples' health and the use of tobacco products compromises the city's ability to provide a safe and healthy place to work and live.

101.200 – Tobacco Free Facilities

The City of Bemidji does not allow the use of tobacco products on city-owned property including buildings and grounds, adjacent parking lots, park land, trails, recreational facilities, city owned vehicles, and private vehicles on city grounds.

101.300 – Compliance Procedures

City-owned facilities will be appropriately signed. The emphasis on enforcing the Tobacco Free Policy is through voluntary compliance. However, employees violating the policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

All employees are authorized and encouraged to communicate this policy with courtesy, respect, and diplomacy, especially with regard to visitors.

AUTHORED BY: City Manager

APPROVED BY: City Council
DATE: April 18, 2011