

County Campuses to Go Smoke and Tobacco -Free
Effective: March 1, 2013; Revised February 11, 2014

Catawba County Government buildings have been tobacco free since 1990. The Public Health campus has been tobacco free since 2005 and the Catawba Valley Medical Center campus has been tobacco free since 2006 and smoking is not allowed at County parks. County grounds have been smoke-free since January 1, 2011. Effective March 1, 2013, all Catawba County buildings and grounds will be smoke and tobacco free.

BACKGROUND

Catawba County recognizes that smoking and tobacco are health, safety and environmental hazards for employees and visitors. Catawba County recognizes its obligation to promote a healthy environment, free from unwanted smoke and tobacco usage for everyone within its facilities and on its grounds.

Catawba County recognizes that adopting a 100% smoke and tobacco-free campus policy is an effective way to help protect its employees and visitors from the harmful effects of smoke and tobacco.

As a government entity and large employer, Catawba County is on the forefront of promoting healthy behaviors and is ranked among one of the healthiest counties in the State. A major benefit of adopting a smoke and tobacco-free policy is a healthier workforce. In fact, the #1 reason why most people quit smoking and using tobacco is because their workplace has gone smoke and tobacco-free. To be a strong proponent of healthy lifestyles, it is a necessity for Catawba County to implement a 100% smoke and tobacco-free policy for all facilities.

Catawba County Public Health adopted a 100% tobacco free campus in 2005. In addition, all schools and hospitals in Catawba County have also adopted 100% tobacco free policies. It is important that Catawba County have a 100% smoke and tobacco-free campus policy in order to set an example as a government entity and also as a large employer.

SMOKING AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS PROHIBITED

Smoking or using any cigarette, electronic cigarette, cigar, pipe or any other tobacco product is prohibited at all times.

- In any building, facility, or vehicle owned, leased or rented (when County is Lessor), or chartered by Catawba County or any of its departments; and
- On any grounds or property, including parking lots, owned, leased or rented (when County is Lessor), or chartered by Catawba County or any of its departments.
- While on County property.

SIGNAGE

Signs will be posted in a manner and location that adequately notify employees and visitors of the smoke and tobacco-free policy.

EDUCATION

Public Health Administration and the County's Public Information Officer will conduct tobacco free campus outreach through Spirit Newsletter articles; posting information and a FAQ page on SharePoint; posting information on Facebook and Twitter pages; a press release for the public; a recording for the main health department phone line; posting on the County website, and creating a flyer/document for the E-bulletin system.

ENFORCEMENT

Consequences for employees who violate this smoke and tobacco free policy will be in accordance with personnel policies and may include verbal or written warning, or termination. Visitors who smoke or are seen using tobacco will be asked to refrain while on County property or leave the premises. Law enforcement officers may be contacted to escort the person off the premises or cite the person for trespassing if the person refuses to comply and leave.

This policy applies to the following County buildings and campuses:

- Catawba Valley Medical Center, Public Health, Social Services, the Family Services Center, LifeSkills
- Social Services Family Builders and group homes
- Riverbend, Bakers Mountain, and St. Stephens parks
- Justice/Government Center Complex, Animal Shelter, Garage, Maintenance
- Libraries
- Landfill/Eco Complex/Convenience Center sites
- Agricultural Resources Center Complex
- 1924 Courthouse
- EMS Bases