



Public Health Press Release

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Sutter Hill Apartments Go Smoke-Free!

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– Dr. Bob Hartmann

“Asthma attacks, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), ear infections and lung infections all increase when kids are exposed to secondhand smoke.”

Jackson, Ca. Sutter Hill Apartments has the honor of being the first apartment complex within Amador County to declare all apartment units as 100% smoke-free. Albert Issaco, the owner of the complex, signed a voluntary policy this month declaring each apartment as smoke-free at 116 Valley View Way in Sutter Creek.

“This is a valuable precedent that has been set by Sutter Hill Apartments,” commented Dr. Bob Hartmann, Amador County Health Officer. “By maintaining this complex as totally smoke-free, they are conveying the importance of the health of their residents by protecting them from the poisons in secondhand smoke and reducing the fire risk.”

“Beyond the multiple health benefits for the residents, apartment owners understand the high maintenance costs associated with allowing smoking in their units,” said Diana Evensen, Health Educator for Amador County Public Health, “including cigarette burn marks, nicotine and tar-stained walls, and carpets that reek of tobacco smoke. Smoke-free policies dramatically reduce maintenance costs when the apartment units have to be refurbished for new tenants.”

According to local apartment managers, the costs of turning over an apartment to get it ready for a new tenant can reach upwards of \$4,000 to \$5,000 if the vacating tenant smoked inside the unit. For many apartment complexes, much of this cost far exceeds the deposit amount applied to repairs or damages.

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Sutter Hill Apartments Go Smoke-Free (cont.)

Smoke-free multi-unit housing is fast-becoming the "hot" new amenity in California rental housing, as well as across the country. The National Apartment Association, the National Multi Housing Council and the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) have all issued policy memoranda stating that smoke-free policies are legal in all states and make good business sense, as well as being good for their residents' health.

The Centers for Disease Control estimate that secondhand smoke is responsible for as many as 73,000 deaths among non-smokers each year in the United States. Exposure also increases the risk of coronary heart disease and causes respiratory tract infections, such as pneumonia and bronchitis, in as many as 300,000 children in the United States each year.

“The health of the children in our community is so important,” emphasized Nina Machaco, First 5 Amador Director. “Asthma attacks, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), ear infections and lung infections all increase when kids are exposed to secondhand smoke.” This sentiment was echoed by Gretchen Carlson, Amador County Unified School District Nurse, further linking exposure and subsequent health problems to increased school absences.

Smoke-free multi-unit housing is fast-becoming the "hot" new amenity

More information on secondhand smoke, smoke free housing benefits and information for both tenants and landlords can be found at the Tobacco Reduction of Amador County website: <http://www.co.amador.ca.us/index.aspx?page=387>.

Tobacco Reduction of Amador County (TRAC) is a local community resource and is committed to providing education and raising awareness in our community. TRAC also offers assistance for any apartment complexes wanting more information on offering all or some their units as smoke-free. For more information on smoke-free apartments or cessation resources, contact the TRAC office at 223-6638 or TRAC@co.amador.ca.us.