

### *How can I file a complaint?*

You can register a complaint to the Environmental Health Division by calling (956) 795-4904, or the Health Department Director (956) 795-4901.

### *How can I support my employees who want to quit smoking?*

If you smoke and want to quit, or to support your employees or patrons who want to quit, call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit <http://www.cancer.org>

### *How can I find more information?*

For more information you can call the City of Laredo Health Department Health Promotion Division at (956) 795-4937 or visit our web site at <http://www.ci.laredo.tx.us>



### Where is smoking allowed?

- ◆ Private residences, except when used as a licensed child care, adult day care or health care facility;
- ◆ Outdoor places of employment 10 feet or more from building entrance and outdoor patios 5 feet or more from building entrances;
- ◆ Tobacco Specialty Retail stores that are free standing;
- ◆ Streets, sidewalks, and parking lots, whether public or private;
- ◆ Private places, as the term is defined herein, which includes private clubs and private recreational facilities;
- ◆ Hotel and motel rooms and all other public and private conference and meeting rooms while these places are being used exclusively for private functions.

**CITY OF LAREDO**  
**Health Department**  
2600 Cedar Ave.  
Laredo, Texas 78044-2337  
(956) 795-4900 Fax (956) 726-2632

### If my business is not listed above, does the ordinance apply to the public?

If your type of business is not listed above and you have employees, then you cannot allow smoking in your business.



# Preparing For a Smoke-free Laredo

## Smoke free Public Place and Workplace

A Guide for  
Restaurants, Bars, and  
other public places

# Effective July 13, 2006, public places and workplaces in Laredo are smoke-free

## *What is the “No smoking in Public Places” Ordinance 2006-0-073?*

The Indoor Air Ordinance commonly known as the “No smoking in public places” ordinance prohibits smoking in public places to protect employees and the public from the adverse health effects of smoking and secondhand smoke.

## *What is secondhand smoke (Environmental Tobacco Smoke—ETS)?*

Secondhand smoke is the combination of smoke exhaled by a smoker and the smoke from a burning cigarette. This combination is dangerous for both the smoker and the nonsmoker. It contains more than 4,000 chemicals, including 43 known to cause cancer. Secondhand smoke causes over 3,000 deaths due to lung cancer each year but also causes other health problems such as asthma and middle ear infections in children.

## *What are the effects of smoking and ETS in public places?*

In Laredo, smoking causes 85% of lung cancer. Lung cancer caused by smoking is #1 cause of death in men and #2 cause of death in women. In 1993, the Environmental Protection Agency classified secondhand smoke as a class A carcinogen, like asbestos and radon.

- One eight-hour shift in a smoky bar is the same as smoking 16 cigarettes.
- Two hours in the same bar is the same as smoking four cigarettes.
- ETS causes 20% of lung cancer in Laredo.
- To protect workers and the public from the harmful effects of smoking and secondhand smoke.
- There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

## *What does the No Smoking Ordinance require me to do?*

Effective July 13, 2006: Smoking in public places is prohibited in any indoor space. • As the owner of the establishment you must notify the public and your employees that your establishment is smoke-free and smoking is not allowed.

## *Do I need to post signs?*

Yes. A universal sign must be clearly posted at every entrance to public places and workplaces. In addition, you must remove all smoking paraphernalia where smoking is prohibited. No smoking signs must be purchased or made and posted by the owners. Failure to post signs could result in a civil penalty of up to \$200.00 per day.

## *Where is smoking permitted?*

Smoking is not allowed in any indoor workplace. The Ordinance states that smoking is only permitted ten (10) feet or more from the entrance of a building, and five (5) feet or more from the patio. Only in this area we recommend having adequate number of ashtrays or similar receptacles for appropriate disposal of smoking materials such as matches, cigarettes, cigars and ashes.

## *What do I do about a customer who refuses to comply?*

The owner and your staff must remind patrons and the public of the ordinance, and should explain that they must step outside to smoke. If the violator is belligerent or threatening physical harm please call the Laredo Police Department. The purpose of the ordinance is to protect others from the harmful effects of smoking and secondhand smoke. Call the Health Department Environmental Division at (956) 795-4904 to report any noncompliance.

## *What if I choose to allow customers or employees to smoke?*

As an employer, if you choose to allow smoking in your establishment, you will be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$200.00 per violation and suspension of any license or permit issued by the City of Laredo.

## *How will the ordinance be enforced?*

The owner, manager, operator or any person having control of an indoor area open to the public, food service establishment, bar, or place of employment under this ordinance must post appropriate signage and will inform individuals who are smoking that they are in violation of city ordinance. Enforcement of the ordinance is by the Health Department, who will conduct inspections weekdays, evenings and on weekends.