

Are you ready for Oct. 1st ?

Passing a smoke-free law is just the first step in a process. Believe it or not, a lot of people still don't know that the governor signed the Freedom to Breathe Act into law. They don't know that smoking will be prohibited by law in virtually all workplaces and public places starting on October 1, 2007. Many people still don't understand that protecting workers and the public from exposure to secondhand smoke will save lives.

Education is the key to understanding and acceptance of the new law. We will begin educating the public in Goodhue County at the County

Fair. As October 1st comes closer, we will need volunteers to participate in a Letter to the Editor campaign in all of our local newspapers. We will also work with local newspapers and radio to provide information to the public about the switch to smoke-free air.

After October 1st, we will be asking all of our supporters to give us feedback about how their communities are reacting to the new law. Does everyone understand and follow the new law? Is there a need for some additional education? All of us can play an important role in ensuring a smooth transition to smoke-free air in Minnesota.



Celebrating the signing of the Freedom to Breathe Act at our June meeting in Red Wing.

Test your knowledge!

October 1, 2007 is just around the corner. Minnesota will become the twentieth smoke-free state. Understanding the health benefits of smoke-free air is easy, but how well do you understand our new state law? Try answering these questions, then check your answers at left.

- The new law will prohibit smoking in public places and places of employment that are:
 - Indoors
 - Outdoors
 - Indoors and outdoors
- Smoking will no longer be allowed in:
 - Bars
 - Restaurants
 - Private clubs (VFW, Elks, etc.)
 - All of these places.
- A place of employment is any vehicle or indoor area where _____ or more people work.
 - Four
 - Two
 - Six
 - Five
- There are some exceptions where smoking will still be allowed. Which of the following is NOT an exception under the new law?
 - Hotel or motel sleeping rooms
 - Tobacco products shops
 - Common areas of rental apartment buildings
 - Heavy commercial vehicles

1. (a) Indoors. The Freedom to Breathe Act is the popular title for legislation that amends the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act. The focus is still on indoor air. State law does not regulate smoking outdoors. Cities and counties still have the option of passing laws that regulate outdoor smoking in public places.

2. (d) All of these places. The new law prohibits smoking in virtually all indoor work places and public places. There are a few exceptions. Visit www.smokefreegc.org to see the list of exceptions.

3. (b) Two. The work can be paid employment or volunteers doing work that is normally paid. Vehicles used for work purposes are places of employment when more than one person is present.

4. (c) Common areas of rental apartment buildings. This is an example of a public place where smoking is prohibited. Bars, restaurants, retail stores, hospitals, nursing homes, auditoriums, arenas, and meeting rooms are also public places.

How did you do? 4 Correct: Smoke-free authority. 3 Correct: Well informed advocate. 2 Correct: Good basic understanding. 1 Correct: Visit our Web site or stop by our booth at the County Fair to learn more about the Freedom to Breathe Act.

Answers:

HOW TO CONTACT US

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We're on the Web
www.smokefreegc.org

Volunteers needed for Goodhue County Fair and Red Wing Diversity Festival



Coming Oct. 1st

Freedom to Breathe Logo

This new logo will help to remind the public about the smoke-free change coming on October 1, 2007. The logo has been made available to supporters of smoke-free air throughout the state. Look for it! Point it out to people you know.

We will have a booth at the Goodhue County Fair and at the Red Wing Diversity Festival. We can help to ensure the success of the Freedom to Breathe Act by educating the public so they understand what the new law covers and why it will be a benefit for everyone's health.

These two events are both great opportunities to reach a broad cross section of our county. The key to success for this kind of booth is volunteers like you. When people see their friends and neighbors helping at the booth, they are much more

likely to stop in and take a few minutes to learn.

Goodhue County Fair dates and hours:

August 7 (5:00 - 10:00 pm)
August 8 (noon - 10:00 pm)
August 9 (noon - 10:00 pm)
August 10 (noon - 10:00 pm)
August 11 (noon - 8:00 pm)

We are asking volunteers to sign up for a 2.5 hour shift.

The **Red Wing Diversity Festival** is on Saturday September 15, 2007.

To volunteer for either event please call Tom Wolff.