

**VENTURA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE SMOKE-FREE ORDINANCE  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S) FOR THE PUBLIC**

**1. Why is the County of Ventura going smoke-free?**

The Ventura County Board of Supervisors adopted the Ventura County Comprehensive Smoke-free Ordinance on January 10, 2017 to improve the health and safety of people visiting and working in county facilities and unincorporated Ventura County. Smoking is still the leading cause of preventable death and disability in the United States and the U.S. Surgeon General has stated that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

**2. When does this ordinance become effective?**

The ordinance became effective on February 10, 2017. Enforcement of the ordinance will begin on August 10, 2017.

**3. To whom does this ordinance apply?**

The ordinance applies to all Ventura County residents who live, work or visit in the unincorporated areas of Ventura County and those who access services in County buildings or facilities.

**4. Where is smoking prohibited?**

Smoking is prohibited in the following areas of Unincorporated Ventura County:

- a. Outdoor dining areas in restaurants
- b. Entryways to buildings
- c. Public Events (Outdoor farmers markets, community fairs/events)
- d. Recreation Areas (Parks, recreation areas, trails, etc.)
- e. Service areas (ATM's, movie lines, etc.)
- f. Worksites
- g. All County of Ventura buildings, facilities and grounds.

**5. How will the ordinance be enforced?**

An awareness campaign will be launched using signage and educational materials to County employees and to the public. As this is a County ordinance, enforcement of the ordinance is at the sole discretion of the County, but repeat violations are infractions subject to a fine.

Each incident of smoking or use of a tobacco product in violation of this chapter is an infraction subject to a warning for a first violation and then punishable by a fine of \$50 for a second violation within one year, a fine of \$100 for a third violation within one year, and a fine of \$200 for a fourth or subsequent violation.

**6. What is the definition of "smoking" and therefore prohibited by this ordinance?**

Smoking includes the use of cigarettes, cigars, water pipes, pipes, hookahs, marijuana (including medical marijuana) and electronic smoking devices, such as e-cigarettes and vaping pens, which produce a vapor of nicotine or other substances.

**VENTURA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE SMOKE-FREE ORDINANCE  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S) FOR THE PUBLIC**

**7. What areas of outdoor Unincorporated Ventura County are affected by this ordinance?**

All unincorporated areas of Ventura County are affected by this ordinance.

This includes:

**District 1:** Montalvo, Saticoy, Ojai Valley, Upper Ojai Valley, and North Coast.

**District 2:** Newbury Park, Westlake Village, Oak Park, Bell Canyon, Hidden Valley, Lake Sherwood, Somis, Las Posas Valley, California State University Channel Islands, Portions of the Oxnard Plain, Santa Rosa Valley, Naval Base Ventura County Point Mugu, California Air National Guard, and South Coast.

**District 3:** Southeast Oxnard, East Oxnard Plain, Piru, East Lockwood Valley, and Eastern Portion of Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme.

**District 4:** Santa Susana Knolls, Box Canyon, Chatsworth Peak, Home Acres, Sinaloa Lake, and Tierra Rejada Valley.

**District 5:** Silver Strand, Hollywood Beach, Hollywood by the Sea, Channel Islands Harbor, El Rio, Nyeland Acres, Del Norte, Oxnard College, Oxnard Plain, Strickland and a portion of the Ventura County Naval Base Pt. Hueneme.

**8. Are there designated smoking areas on properties owned or leased by the County?**

There will be one designated smoking area located at the Ventura County Government Center in order to enable prospective jurors who smoke to remain within vicinity of the jury services room while waiting to be called into a courtroom. There are no other designated smoking areas on County property at this time.

**9. Is smoking allowed in recreational areas that are owned and leased by the County?**

Smoking is prohibited in all Ventura County parks, picnic areas, playgrounds, sporting fields, walking paths, lakes, and gardens, hiking trails, bike paths, riding trails, swimming pools, skateboard parks, amusement parks and beaches (i.e., Hobson Beach Park, Faria Beach Park and Rincon Parkway).

Smoking is allowed in the following County owned and maintained golf courses:

Rustic Canyon Golf Course in Simi Valley, Saticoy Regional Golf Course in Ventura, and Soule Park Golf Course in Ojai.

**VENTURA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE SMOKE-FREE ORDINANCE  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S) FOR THE PUBLIC**

**10. Is smoking allowed on campsites that are on County campgrounds?**

Smoking is prohibited in all County owned and operated campgrounds. County owned and maintained campgrounds include:

- Camp Comfort Ojai
- Dennison Park Ojai
- Faria County Beach Park
- Foster County Park
- Hobson Beach Park Ventura
- Kenney Grove Park
- Oak Park
- Rincon RV Parkway
- Steckel Park
- Tapo Canyon Park

**11. What resources are available to help me stop smoking?**

If you would like support to quit the use of tobacco and tobacco products, call Ventura County Public Health Tobacco Education and Prevention's **Call it Quits** program at (805) 201-7867 or visit <http://www.vchca.org/ventura-county-public-health-tobacco-programs>

In addition, California has a free helpline that offers ongoing one-on-one counseling and cessation materials in several languages. They can be reached by calling 1 -800- NO-BUTTS (1-800-662-8887).

**For additional questions regarding the ordinance, contact Ventura County Public Health  
at (805) 201-7867**