

Statewide Smokefree Workplace Law One Year Later

Alaska Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, October, 2019

1st Anniversary

A neighborhood or job shouldn't be hazardous to your health. On October 1, 2018, Alaska businesses and public places became healthier, thanks to the smokefree workplace law. Many communities were already smokefree, but this new law requires all businesses to protect employees and customers from exposure to secondhand smoke by prohibiting smoking. The Tobacco Prevention and Control program and the Tobacco Enforcement program are tasked with implementing this new law.

Between October 2018 and 2019, implementation consisted of:

- Educating business owners of law requirements
- Distributing signs for businesses, vehicles and properties
- Receiving smoking complaints and enforcing the law's requirements

Education:

Smokefree.Alaska.gov is a public website to provide information on the new law. On the website, people can read the law, get answers to frequently asked questions, request a business packet, order or download signs, or file a smoking complaint. By October 1, 2019, there were:

- Over 55,000 views
- Over 13,000 signs downloaded
- Over 13,000 signs ordered



Smokefree workplaces effective October 1!

Know the Law

- Home >
- Alaska's Smokefree Workplace Law - AS 18.35.301

Frequently Asked Questions

- General
- Individuals
- Businesses

Resources

- Business Packet, 207kb
- Order Signs
- Alaska Tobacco Prevention and Control Program
- Live a Smokefree Life
- Alaska's Tobacco Quit Line

Alaska's Smokefree Workplace Law

On Tuesday, July 17, 2018, Gov. Bill Walker signed into law the Smokefree Alaska bill, SB63, that prohibits smoking in enclosed public places and workplaces, including buses and taxis, stores, bars and restaurants. The law is now recorded in Alaska Statute as AS 18.35.301. Many organizations worked together over a number of years to support the law's passage: the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Lung Association in Alaska, the American Heart Association, AARP, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, among other groups and individuals.

Why this law is necessary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supports smokefree policies as a population-based best practice that protects the public from secondhand smoke to improve public health. Reducing secondhand smoke can lower the risk for a number of serious illnesses, including stroke, heart disease, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), low birth weight and lung cancer. It can save the expense of health care dollars for medical care and hospital admissions, as well as save businesses the cost of lost productivity. Nonsmokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke at work are more likely to develop heart disease, lung cancer or other diseases.

Secondhand smoke is defined in two categories:

1. Secondhand smoke is smoke from burning cigarettes, cigars and pipes, as well as smoke exhaled by the person smoking.
2. Secondhand aerosol is the exhaled vapor from electronic smoking devices such as e-cigarettes, vape pens/personal vaporizers and e-hookah.

How does the law define smoking?

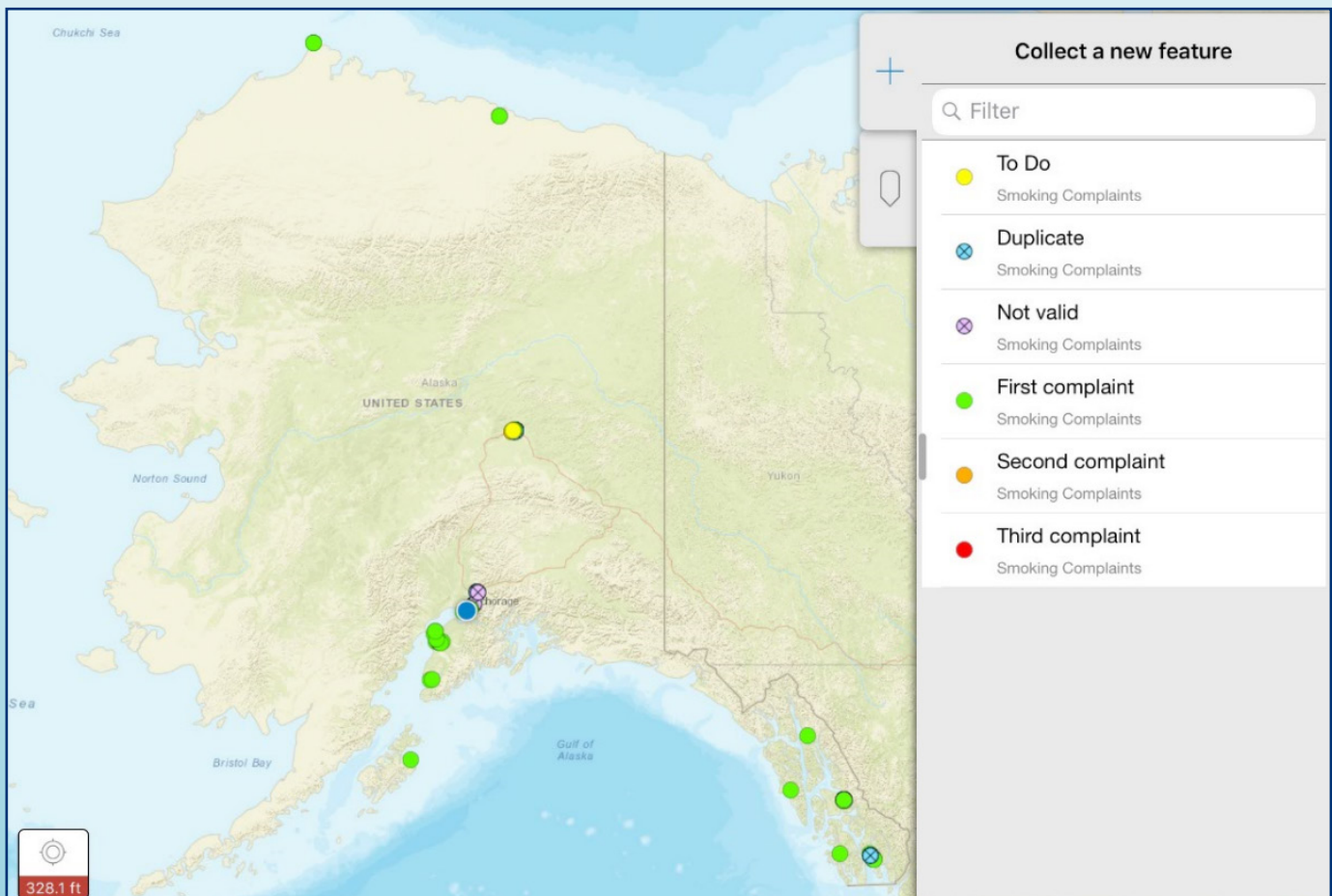
Smoking means using any of the following:

Enforcement:

The Tobacco Enforcement program investigates smoking complaints. If the Enforcement Officer determines the complaint is a violation of the law, appropriate action is taken.

Complaints:

- 54 unique business complaints submitted
- All complaints included a smoking incident
- All complaints were investigated within 5 days
- 21 complaints were incomplete or invalid
- No fines to date



For more information, contact us:

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Complaint Form: www.surveymonkey.com/r/SmokefreeComplaintForm