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## **Several Multi-Unit Housings in San Bernardino County Go Smoke Free to Prevent Secondhand Smoke Exposure**

**San Bernardino:** Apartment and townhome complexes in the cities of San Bernardino, Loma Linda, Redlands, Colton, Rancho Cucamonga, Alta Loma, and Rialto have implemented regulations to protect residents in multi-unit housing from environmental exposure to secondhand smoke.

Two of the newest apartment complexes in Rancho Cucamonga, Santa Barbara and Villaggio, are 100% smoke-free. The corporations that own these multi-unit housings chose to implement a smoke-free policy; and additional future complexes will become smoke-free. Visible signage is posted throughout the facilities stating "This is a Smoke-Free Facility. Thank you for not Smoking."

Lewis Apartment Communities, National Core, and the Housing Authority of San Bernardino County are the three known companies in San Bernardino County that have implemented complete or partial smoke-free policies. By designating buildings within the complex as non-smoking, along with all common areas, these companies have put the health and well-being of County residents as their top priority. Owners/landlords have the right to limit smoking in their properties. California State legislation states that owners/landlords have the right to make units or housing areas smoke-free.

Secondhand smoke kills 53,000 people in the United States every year. Secondhand smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals, 50 of them can cause cancer later on in life. Smoke from nearby units or people smoking outside can drift into homes. Smoke can travel through electrical outlets and switches, gaps at the bottom and sides of doors, poorly sealed windows, and opening in walls and floors where wiring, plumbing, and air and heating vents are placed.

A smoke-free policy is beneficial for both owners and residents by promoting a healthy and clean air environment, especially for young children, people with asthma and chronic lung disease. Furthermore, the cost of fire insurance liability will be much less for owners and provide a safer place for all residents to live in.

For a list of complete or partial smoke-free apartments or questions about free or low-cost smoking cessation programs, please contact the Tobacco Use Reduction Now (TURN) Program, Monday-Friday, 8-5 p.m., at 1 (800) 637-6653.

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