Pleasant Valley Fire District
District Policy

Tobacco Use Policy

Town Law 176(21), Public Health Law Article 13-E

Purpose: To provide and promote a healthy environment and to designate how and where tobacco products may be used on Fire District property or when Fire District personnel are on duty.

Applicability: This policy applies to all Fire District personnel and employees (including fire commissioners, firefighters, fire police, auxiliary, social, etc.), invited guests and visitors.

Definitions:

Tobacco Product - Any product consisting of in whole or in part, tobacco or any byproduct of such. This includes but is not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, e-cigarettes, vapor cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, or similar products.

Smoking - The act of lighting, smoking, or carrying a lighted or smoldering tobacco product of any kind.

Vaping - the action or practice of inhaling and exhaling the vapor produced by an electronic cigarette or similar device.

Public Area - Any area on District property where Fire District personnel are caused to or likely to work and any area that is generally accessible to the public.

Designated Area - Areas outside of Fire District buildings that are twenty feet or farther from a building entrance where smoking and/or trash receptacles are placed.

Policy:

1. Smoking, tobacco, and vaping use shall be prohibited in all public areas inside the building.
2. Smoking, tobacco, and vaping use shall be prohibited in all district owned or leased vehicles.
3. All individuals must leave the building in order to use tobacco and vaping products and may only be used in designated areas outside of the building entrances where appropriate receptacles are placed.
4. Chewing tobacco may be used in designated areas outside of buildings provided that the remnants are disposed of in a sealed container and placed in an appropriate trash receptacle.
5. Compliance with this policy is the personal responsibility of smoking, tobacco, and vaping users. However, a violation of this policy may subject Fire District personnel to discipline or cause non-Fire District personnel to be removed or prohibited from Fire District property.
6. The use of smoking, tobacco, and vaping products by Fire District personnel while on duty but off of Fire District property is discouraged. However, if personnel use smoking, tobacco, and vaping they should be mindful that all (other) Fire District personnel are entitled to work in a smoke/vape-free environment so to be certain that any use does not impact or affect any other Fire District personnel.
7. In the interest of health and wellness of all persons, we encourage Fire District personnel who use tobacco/vape to pursue tobacco/vape usage cessation programs.

Adopted 4/14/2020

Updated 11/8/2022