

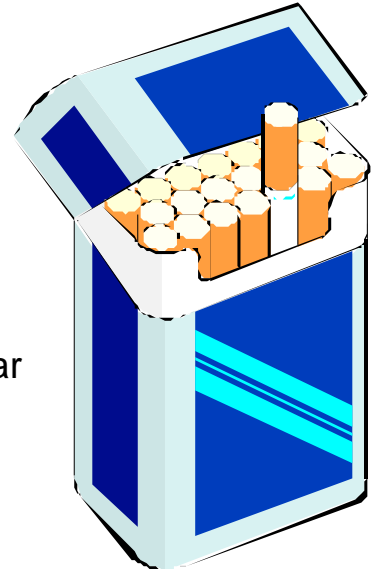
FIRE SAFETY FLYERS

FIRE SAFE CIGARETTES (Reduced Ignition Propensity)

Act 68 passed by the 2005-2006 Vermont General Assembly will now require all cigarettes sold or offered for sale in Vermont to meet the same criteria for fire-safe (reduced ignition propensity) cigarettes as in New York State. This new law is expected to significantly reduce the number of people killed or injured by fire in Vermont when it goes in to effect in May 2006.

The new law is designed to limit the risk that cigarettes will ignite upholstered furniture, mattresses, household furnishings or other combustible material and result in fewer fire deaths, injuries and property loss from fires caused by cigarettes.

Smoking materials were the leading cause of fire deaths in Vermont (1995-2004) with 25% of the fire deaths. This is similar to the national average for fire deaths from smoking materials that varies between 22% and 26% according to statistics from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Smoking materials were the third leading cause of fire related injuries nationwide.



The newly designed cigarettes are designed to stop burning when left unattended, but otherwise they have the same characteristics as other cigarettes. The cost of the fire safe cigarettes to consumers has not changed and the law contains provisions for stores to sell their existing inventory of cigarettes.

Vermont joins New York State and Canada in requiring fire safe cigarettes. Similar requirements go in to effect in California in 2007.

For additional information contact the Division of Fire Safety, Central Office.

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