



## **NEWS RELEASE**

*4100 Donald Douglas Drive, Long Beach, CA 90808*

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# **Fresh Air For Everyone Long Beach Airport - A Smoke-Free Facility**

On Wednesday, April 25, the Long Beach Airport became a "Smoke-Free Facility." Under the new policy, all interior and exterior Terminal areas will be smoke-free, including the car rental and Ground Transportation Center and the Valet Parking area.

Two outdoor areas, conveniently located near the North and South baggage claim areas have been established as the Airport's only "Designated Smoking Areas."

The Airport's smoke-free initiative is a joint-effort with the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services Tobacco Education Program (TEP) and the Coalition for a Smoke-Free Long Beach.

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### **Background**

According to the American Lung Association, cigarette smoking has been identified as the most important source of preventable morbidity and premature mortality worldwide. Smoking-related diseases claim an estimated 438,000 American lives each year, including those affected indirectly, such as babies born prematurely due to prenatal maternal smoking and victims of "secondhand" exposure to tobacco's carcinogens. Smoking costs the United States over \$167 billion each year in health-care costs including \$92 billion in mortality-related productivity losses and \$75.5 billion in excess medical expenditures. Health-care costs directly caused by smoking total \$4.05 billion annually.

Non-smokers exposed to second-hand smoke also experience health problems. Secondary smoke causes more than 3,000 lung cancer deaths annually as well as exacerbation of lung disease in non-smoking adults and respiratory problems in children. Second-hand smoke is also responsible for 35,000 heart disease deaths in non-smokers each year.