

TITLE: HAZARDS AND BANNING OF SMOKING	
Guideline Number: LS1465	Issue Date: 3 / October / 2007
Issue Status: 1.0	

PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines on the hazards associated with smoking and on the banning of smoking by lifeguards while on duty and/or in buildings, facilities and vehicles.

SCOPE:

This Guideline applies to the following:

- All government authorities and agencies and those organisations responsible for the management and operation of coastal environments; and
- Those organisations experienced in public safety and responsible for the provision of public safety services.

For example:

- Coastal/marine park authorities and managers
- Lifesaving service providers
- Lifeguards and lifeguard supervisors

This Guideline applies to coastal environments, including ocean coastline and saltwater waterways that open to the oceans surrounding Australia.

GUIDELINE DESCRIPTION:

1.0 General

1.1 Smoking is a health hazard and lifeguards should not smoke.

1.2 All lifesaving service providers should:

- a. raise the awareness of the adverse health and safety issues associated with smoking;
- b. provide a smoke free environment; and
- c. ensure the use of cigarettes and other tobacco products does not compromise the safety or health of lifesaving personnel or others.

2.0 Smoking prohibited

Smoking of cigarettes and other tobacco products should be prohibited in all lifesaving buildings, facilities and vehicles, or whilst in uniform.

3.0 Patrols and active lifesaving duties

3.1 Apart from the known risks to member health, smoking while on active lifesaving duties should be prohibited.

3.2 Lifeguards should not smoke while in uniform, in the public's view, or while representing the organisation.

4.0 Fire safety awareness

4.1 Smoking brings with it additional hazards in terms of fire safety.

4.2 There should be no smoking near oxygen equipment or fuel or in other circumstances where there is an increased risk of fire or explosion.

5.0 Education and awareness

5.1 Where appropriate, information explaining the health risks associated with smoking should be provided.

5.2 Employees who smoke should be provided with information on the harmful effects of smoking, and where to seek help in discontinuing the habit.

DEFINITIONS:

Lifeguard means 'an appropriately trained and qualified individual who volunteers or is employed at bathing beaches, pools, etc. to prevent drowning, provide injury prevention and response services, and to save people from drowning'.

Lifesaving service means 'an organised and structured service comprised of lifeguards and appropriate rescue and first aid equipment supported by a coordinated backup team'.

Occupational health and safety (OHS) means 'the health and safety considerations of or relating to the activity or business for which one is trained'.

REFERENCES:

Australian Coastal Public Safety Guidelines

- LS1460: Occupational health and safety policy
- LS1461: Lifeguard occupational health and safety
- LS1462: Zero tolerance on alcohol and drugs
- LS1463: Sun safe practices
- LS1464: Selection and use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- LS1466: Manual handling safety
- LS1467: Managing workplace stress
- LS1468: Rehabilitation from illness or injury

Guidelines for safe recreational water environments. Volume 1 – Coastal and fresh waters. World Health Organization, Geneva, 2003.

Lifeguard Service Operating Procedures Version 1, Surf Life Saving Queensland, February 2005.

Surf Life Saving Australia, 2003. Surf lifesaving training manual, 32nd edition. Elsevier Australia Pty Ltd..

APPENDICES:

Nil