

SMOKING SURVEY RESULTS ANNOUNCED by Carole Stevenson National Health Coordinator

Shortly after we published the smoking survey in the newsletter, Elizabeth Dole attempted to kibbosh the AMA and National Science Foundation endorsed smoking ban on aircraft, saying that the issue of health effects of in-flight smoking needed further study! But we did not give up and neither did anyone else, apparently. As you know, the Congress is now beginning to act on — as a first step — a limited ban that would effect only short haul flights.

Health representatives for flight attendants and frequent passenger organizations are continuing to fight for a total ban of in-flight smoking helped, without a doubt, by the Surgeon General's goal of a smokeless society in a few years time.

Here are the results of our survey. By the way, we were swamped with them and what was most interesting, they continued to come in in a steady stream for months and months after publication, the only survey that has ever come in for such a protracted period of time:

- average years of service of respondents—9.6
- average age—33
- 1/2 have smoked at one time 1/3 have never smoked
 - range was from 1/2 pack a week to 2 packs a day.
 - only 1/3 of respondents smoke NOW
- "Sidestream" effects—
 - 97% suffer burning and red eyes
 - 30% notice inflamed eyelids
 - 95% reported nasal irritation and 90% stuffiness
 - 65% develop post nasal drip and 48% block in nostrils
 - 85% respond to sidestream smoke with sinus problems and pain and 51% exhibit coughs

- headaches are suffered by 95%, wheezing by 13%, nausea by 48%, tightness of chest and shortness of breath by around 50% of the respondents; 70% ascribed fatigue to their exposure to cabin smoke
- 75% reported an increase in colds, bronchitis, sore throats and other respiratory problems since they began flying, and equally significant percentages reported increased allergies and specific allergies to cigarette smoke, with resulting loss of work and medical bills for treatment.
- 90% of respondents bid positions away from smoking section on aircraft.
- 75% of respondents reported they have seen cigarette related fire or potential fire on airplanes.

This is a list of F/A's answers to the fire related section. They are listed in order of what was listed the most. All listed were either a fire or had the potential to start a fire.

- A. Dropped cigarette on the floor, between seat and fuselage wall or seat.
- B. A sleep or intoxicated passengers who have either cigarettes in hands or in ashtray.
- C. F/A's who are burned or have holes in their uniforms from passengers hanging cigarettes out in aisle.
- D. Passengers smoking in lavs — (one F/A reported that smoke alarm didn't go off).
- E. Passengers who stand at back of plane and flick ashes on floor — or who flick ashes on floor when seated.
- F. Cigarette burns in carpet or in seats.
- G. Passengers who put out cigarette in trash containers.

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