



NATIONAL NON-SMOKING WEEK
SEMAINE NATIONALE SANS FUMÉE

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Brought to you by the Canadian Council for Tobacco Control
Présenté par le Conseil canadien pour le contrôle du tabac

Are Fire-safe Cigarettes Actually Safe?

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Cigarettes and smoking materials are the primary cause of residential fires in Canada.ⁱ Careless smoking is usually the cause. Although there are ways to make cigarettes safer and reduce unnecessary death, injury and property damage, these guidelines are difficult to enforce.

We also need to ask ourselves if fire-safe cigarettes are really just an antidote to irresponsible behaviour. Even so called "fire-safe" cigarettes still cause fires and more importantly, these cigarettes can harm your health and shorten your lifespan.

Cigarettes can be made less fire-prone in a number of ways:

- Reducing the amount of tobacco in the cigarette
- Making the cigarette paper less porous
- Decreasing the circumference of the cigarette
- Adding bands to the cigarette paperⁱⁱ

Did you know that Canada is the first country in the world to set rules that reduce the fire-risk of cigarettes?

- *Cigarette Ignition Propensity (Flammability) Regulations* require that all cigarettes manufactured in or imported for sale into Canada meet an ignition propensity standard.
- These regulations require that all cigarettes manufactured in or imported into Canada must burn their full length no more than 25% of the time.ⁱⁱⁱ

Unfortunately, many cigarettes in Canada do not comply with Canada's fire-safe cigarette regulations

- According to a study conducted by Health Canada, 28 cigarette brands currently marketed in Canada are not fire-safe. These non-compliant brands include widely-distributed and well-known brands by major companies.^{iv}

Contraband cigarettes are likely not fire-safe!

- It is important to note that most contraband cigarettes have not been manufactured according to Canadian ignition propensity (flammability) standards. As a result they are more likely to result in fires.



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References

ⁱ Health Canada Website. Science and Research: Program Estimates the Damage of Cigarette Fires. 2007. Accessed November 12, 2008 from: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/sr-sr/activ/protection/fire-feu-eng.php>

ⁱⁱ Health Canada Website. Science and Research: Program Estimates the Damage of Cigarette Fires. 2007. Accessed November 12, 2008 from: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/sr-sr/activ/protection/fire-feu-eng.php>

ⁱⁱⁱ Health Canada. Cigarette Propensity Ignition Regulations Information Sheet. September 2005. Accessed November 13, 2008 from: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/alt_formats/hecs-sesc/pdf/pubs/tobac-tabac/ignition-incend/ignition-incend-eng.pdf

^{iv} Health Canada, Laboratory Analysis of Cigarette for Ignition Propensity. Accessed November 13, 2008 from <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/tobac-tabac/legislation/reg/ignition-allumage/analys-eng.php>