

## NEWS RELEASE

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### ***For immediate release***

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## Indianola Housing Agency Achieves Smoke Free Designation

**Indianola** – Indianola Housing Agency recently achieved Smoke Free designation for all ten of their buildings. Housing Director Joan Sides has worked diligently to provide this opportunity for tenants, especially having an entire complex smoke free.

“Through education from Smoke Free Nebraska, they have emphasized that secondhand smoke migrates,” states Joan. Air quality studies in apartment buildings show that anywhere from 5% to 60% of the air in an apartment unit moves to other units in the building. Contrary to popular belief, secondhand smoke cannot be controlled by ventilation or air cleaning.

“Indianola is to be congratulated for this step to protect tenants, especially children, from the effects of secondhand smoke,” complimented Denise Ringenberg, Health Educator at Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department. “We want to recognize Joan and her board for their efforts and encourage other landlords to consider similar action.” Board members include: Larry Randolph, Jeff Wordekemper, Dale Stewart, Lynn Harris and Jan Terbell.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department will assist area Housing Agencies and private landlords implementing smoke free policies. Additional materials are also available to assist in creating awareness of smoke free housing. Listings of smoke free rental housing in each community are under development that will be shared with area chambers, real estate companies and housing agencies.

If you are interested in receiving information on Smoke Free Housing, please contact Denise Ringenberg at [envhealth@swhealthdept.com](mailto:envhealth@swhealthdept.com), review our web site at <http://www.swhealthdept.com/health.htm> or call the McCook office at 308-345-4223. SWNPHD is also on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/swnphd](http://www.facebook.com/swnphd). The health department serves Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Frontier, Furnas, Perkins and Red Willow counties.

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