



MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

NUMBER: 07-25

December 19, 2007

SUBJECT: Change in Smoking Policy: Adventist HealthCare Facilities

Adventist HealthCare has informed MCFRS that all of its facilities, including Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Washington Adventist Hospital, and the Germantown Emergency Center, became **completely tobacco-free on November 15, 2007**. As of that date, the use of tobacco products were prohibited inside their buildings and on their property, including the sidewalks, parking lots, inside vehicles, and on grassy areas. Using tobacco products will also be prohibited in previously-designated areas outside Adventist facilities where patients and visitors have smoked in the past.

Adventist is asking for MCFRS' support by specifically requesting our EMS personnel to **discontinue the practice** of reassuring some patients that they may use tobacco products once they arrive at their facilities. Adventist has advised us that it has developed protocols to help these patients while they undergo nicotine withdrawal during their stay at Adventist facilities.

MCFRS personnel are aware that DFRS Policy #806, Use of Tobacco Products, applies to all uniformed personnel, and prohibits the use of tobacco at all work sites where County employees are regularly assigned, and in all County buildings, in accordance with Montgomery County Code Sec. 24-9. I am requesting MCFRS supervisors to review this policy with all MCFRS personnel.

For MCFRS volunteer personnel who use tobacco products and wish to quite, Adventist HealthCare is extending to them the opportunity to join one of the tobacco cessation programs it has offered to its own employees. For information about these programs, please call Adventist's Health and Wellness Regional Director Judy Lichty at 301-315-3128, or email jlichty@adventisthealthcare.com, and identify yourself as a member of MCFRS.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Carr".

Issued by: Fire Chief Tom Carr