



**Missouri GASP (Group Against Smoking Pollution) Inc.**

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Dec 12, 2006: Transcribed soundtrack of CBS4-TV Denver report about Denver International Airport's smoking lounges. On-line @ [http://cbs4denver.com/investigates/local\\_story\\_346094417.html](http://cbs4denver.com/investigates/local_story_346094417.html) or <http://tinyurl.com/yxarp5>.

**DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SMOKING LOUNGES**



Anchor **Molly Hughes**: Airports in Pittsburgh and Charlotte will soon go smoke-free.

Anchor **Jim Benemann**: Complete smoking bans in airports seems to be a national trend but not here in Denver and now someone is suing over it.

CBS4 investigator, **Rick Sallinger**, live tonight at DIA and Rick, it's actually getting *easier* to smoke at our airport.



**Rick Sallinger**: It is, Jim.

DIA started with one smoking lounge. By early next year it will be up to four, bucking that national trend, as we see around the country at airports such as JFK [New York], Miami, Newark, San Francisco, [SeaTac in] Seattle, and Philadelphia.

Denver International Airport is *not* smoke-free. You *can* smoke inside, that is, if you're willing to pay the price for a drink in one of the three smoking lounges.



**Rand Kannenberg**, being interviewed by RS: "I have asthma and ..."

**Rick Sallinger**: But the smoke has Rand Kannenberg fuming. He's now taking the city to small claims court, arguing those lounges are not fully enclosed as required by law.

**Rand Kannenberg**: I'm someone with asthma - and it's dangerous for anybody - but I've had to use my inhaler *twice* here at the airport.



**Rick Sallinger**: This is the newest lounge, the Mesa Verde on concourse A. It does not yet have a door.

But its management says the ventilation system is designed to keep smoke inside. And as for that door, well it's coming soon. [Video still shot of notice: "Door Installation will Commence Shortly"]

**Rick Sallinger:** [To Rand Kannenberg] Someone might just say, if it's bothering you, why not avoid the smoking lounge?

**Rand Kannenberg:** Well, a law's a law's a law. The airport's allowed to have the smoking lounges but they are



required to be fully enclosed.



**Rick Sallinger:** The smoking lounges in the main terminal in concourse B no longer have open doors. But do have a few inches of open space at the top of the windows.

In spite of that the city attorney "has advised the Denver Police Department that ... no violation of the state law is occurring." [Screen shot of statement by City Attorney, signed by Helen Raabe, Assistant City Attorney.]



**Steve LeDuc**, smoking lounge manager: "What we're, I guess, attempting to show here is that there's no particulates or smoke coming out into the public area, into the concourse."

The operators of the smoking lounges demonstrated for us with simulated smoke their claim how the air is drawn inside, **not** forced out. [Still image below left.]



Here's how it looks releasing it from the **inside** of the lounge [Still image at right, demonstrating how "smoke" remains contained inside smoking lounge]

The owner of two of the smoking lounges [**David Mosteller**] says the man who filed the legal complaint must not have been aware of the air flow system.



**David Mosteller:** I think he was a bit, er, either misinformed or just not knowledgeable on the sophistication of our ventilation system.



**Rick Sallinger:** Without smoking lounges those on the concourses would have to leave the secured areas and go outside in order to light up and Colorado law prohibits smoking within 15 feet of the doorways. To passenger smoking near doorway

*[Above left.]:* "Sorry to bother you but I think you're violating the smoking ordinance."



With 67 doorways at DIA it's a law the airport calls a tough one to enforce.

An airport spokesman says they really haven't had that many complaints about smoking here at DIA. In fact, he said, most of the complaints have been from smokers who object to having to pay in order to light up. Jim.



Anchor **Jim Benemann:** Alright, thanks Rick. That court case is scheduled to be heard on January 3rd. The city will ask to have it dismissed.