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SMOKERS, TAKE HEED!

You smokers may not realize it, but the lighted end of that cigarette (where do you get them?) is so hot, that its temperature is slightly above the melting point of aluminum or magnesium.

Using a thermocouple, made of extremely thin wires 5/1000ths of an inch in diameter, a General Electric Research worker has found that the lighted cigarette end is between 1200 and 1325 degrees Fahrenheit. (A thermocouple is an electrical device that measures temperature.)

Despite the proximity of this terrific heat to the lips, no burns result, or we would be a sorry-looking bunch of people! The reason for this is that fibrous materials, such as the tobacco in a cigarette, are very good insulators, because they contain air spaces. Consequently, the temperature drops off very rapidly from the hot end.