

# Prevent the Sale!

Newsletter for Idaho Tobacco Retailers

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Sponsored by Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

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DHW Tobacco Project Website: <http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/>

Idaho Tobacco Project page can be found by selecting the "Medical" menu and then "Idaho Tobacco Permits"

Phone: 208-334-6542

### The New Surgeon General's Report on Smoking

By Cheryl Reed

#### Facts and Stats

##### "A-" Average for JULY

According to Idaho Code 39-5701, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare must inspect each business that sells tobacco to ensure that it does not sell tobacco to minors. In JULY, 2012:

- 123 Vendors were inspected.\*
- 10 Vendors sold to the inspecting minor.
- The compliance rate for the month was 91.87%

\*Inspections where purchase attempts were made.

#### Prevent the Sale Website

<http://www.preventthesale.com/Idaho>

- Learn about the law
- Take the tobacco quiz
- See what the ID's look like
- Play the Game "Would You Sell to This Person?"

#### It's Still an Epidemic

If you don't recall seeing recent headlines about America's teen smoking epidemic, it's because there haven't been any. The U.S. Surgeon General hasn't issued a report on youth tobacco use since 1994—until recently.

The new 920-page report shows some alarming numbers. Nearly one in five high school-aged teen smokes—a smaller ratio than a decade ago, but still alarming. Not only that, more than 80 percent of smokers start by the age of 18, and 99 percent of adult smokers in the U.S. today started smoking by age 26.

Here's a few more statistics: Since the 1994 report, smoking among high school students has declined—but the rate of decline stalled in 2007. About 5.2 percent, or roughly 600,000 middle school students also smoke.

According to the report, each day more than 3,800 people under the age of 18 smoke their first cigarette and more than 1,000 become addicted. They replace the 1,200 people who die each day in the U.S. from smoking.

One out of every 3 smokers will eventually quit, and one of the others will die from tobacco-related causes. Adolescents are more susceptible to nicotine's addictiveness and damage to the heart and lungs.

Adolescent smoking health risks begin immediately, including impaired lung growth, shortness of breath, asthma, weight loss, and early abdominal aortic atherosclerosis.

The nation's five biggest tobacco companies spent nearly \$10 billion in 2008 on cigarette marketing—a 48 percent increase in spending from 1998.

#### Smoke? Some States May Not Hire You

Hospitals and medical businesses in many states have found that efforts to cut down on smoking, like banning smoking on company grounds, offering cessation programs, and increasing healthcare premiums for smokers, haven't been incentive enough for smoking employees to kick the habit.

So companies are turning to a different policy: adopting measures that turn smoker-applicants away at the door as a way to increase worker productivity, reduce healthcare costs, and encourage healthier living. Hospitals in eight states stopped hiring smokers last year and more states are considering it.

The shift in hiring has prompted sharp debate, ultimately boiling down to the idea that companies should not legislate what workers do on their own time.

#### Tobacco Factoids

- Every year smokers throw about 176 million pounds of cigarette butts on sidewalks, beaches, and other places. Cigarette butts have immediate dangers and long side effects. Not only do small children pick them up and eat them, toxins can leach into the environment.

- Sixty percent of Indonesian men smoke and 200,000 die each year from tobacco-related disease. More than 80 percent of Indonesian smokers tried their first cigarette as children. Tobacco companies are targeting Indonesian children at young ages. A story on ABC recently followed the story of an eight-year-old boy who has been smoking for nearly four years.

- Idaho is introducing a series of laws that includes a ban on sales of electronic cigarettes to minors and a law that makes texting behind the wheel an infraction that will set violators back \$85. Idaho is now the 37th state to enact a texting-while-driving ban.

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## Physical Barriers

Remember that cigarettes products must be displayed behind a counter where customers don't have direct access to them. A physical barrier must exist between the customer and the tobacco products.

Customers are not allowed to handle unpurchased tobacco products; in other words, the clerk cannot hand unpurchased cigarettes to a customer and have the customer carry them to a different cashier to pay.

## Did you Know?

... That many health insurance plans cover the cost of quitting smoking? You can call your insurance company and see if they will help.

Research shows that support from a trained quit-smoking counselor doubles your chance of quitting for good. Smokers may also be able to choose face-to-face support groups. Many people find it easier to quit smoking when they do it together with others.

## Training Requirements

By law, any employee who sells tobacco must sign a Department of Health and Welfare Form indicating that they understand the state law's requirements. Here's what you should know:

- It is illegal to sell tobacco products to persons less than 18 years of age. Tobacco products include, but aren't limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, snuff, loose-leaf tobacco, smokeless tobacco and tobacco papers.
- Vendors are required to check photo identification to determine if a person is old enough to purchase tobacco products.
- If you do sell tobacco to someone under 18, you can personally be fined \$100. State inspections can occur at any time without warning.
- All tobacco sales must be vendor assisted and sold in their original manufacturer's packaging.

Be sure you know the laws in regard to selling tobacco to minors, and understand the consequences.

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**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEES**