

# Prevent the Sale!

Newsletter for Idaho Tobacco Retailers

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Sponsored by Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

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### More Tobacco Taxes in the Works

By Cheryl Dudley

#### Facts and Stats

##### “B” Average for November

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

NOVEMBER 2010

- ❖ 142 Vendors were inspected.\*
- ❖ 17 Vendors sold to the inspecting minor.
- ❖ The compliance rate for the month of November 2010 was 88%?

\*Inspections where purchase attempts were made.

#### Prevent the Sale Web site

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?”

#### TIME TO RENEW YOUR PERMIT IS NOW!

Your tobacco permit will **EXPIRE** on **December 31, 2010**. You can renew your permits right now online for free at:

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

Be sure to renew your permit before it expires to avoid penalties.

#### Another Cigarette Tax Hike?

The state of Idaho is being pushed by several health groups to increase the cigarette tax as well as the tax on other tobacco products.

Currently, the tax on a pack of cigarettes in Idaho is low compared to the rest of the nation. Idaho ranks number 42 on the list.

Health groups like the American Cancer Society are pushing to increase the tax by at least 57 cents per pack. This would increase funding for state programs and also detract more people from smoking—especially teens. As a matter of fact, some believe it will drop the smoking rate in kids by four percent immediately.

#### How Much Tobacco is Really Costing

According to Idaho state officials, the cost of tobacco-related illnesses in the state are even more than the estimates given by the groups pushing for increased taxes on cigarettes.

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare spokesman Tom Shanahan says that the \$83 million cost cited by the group is actually

an old 2004 estimate. “That figure has likely risen, although Idaho hasn’t calculated any new numbers,” he said.

In April, the federal tax on cigarettes rose from \$.39 per pack to \$1.01 per pack. Health offices were flooded with calls from people seeking help to quit.

#### Please Don't Smoke—in the Park

The city of Moscow voted in November to place stickers on playground equipment in all city parks that say, “Smoke-Free.” The initial proposal was to place aluminum signs in the parks, but city council members decided stickers would be more effective.

Smoke-free park programs have been implemented in eight cities in Idaho. “We think that with the strong influence the city of Moscow has had in other tobacco-related issues, this is another one where we can protect our children,” said Public Health Idaho North Central District Director Carol Moehrle.

Although the new stickers are not part of any ordinance and are not enforceable, they're a strong reminder to those who smoke to be courteous to fellow park users.

#### Health Insurance and Quitting Smoking

Did you know that many health insurance plans cover the cost to quit 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

## It Takes a Community

Everyone can play a part in helping youth avoid tobacco products. Parents, teachers, coaches, school administrators, city officials, and tobacco vendors together can make a difference.

### Here are a few ways that everyone can help:

- Teach young people that tobacco puts them at risk for serious health problems and addiction.
- Limit the number of tobacco ads in stores, remove self-service displays (which are illegal in Idaho), and comply with the law by checking IDs and refusing to sell tobacco to minors.
- Speak at meetings or submit letters to local newspapers that discuss limiting young people's access to tobacco products.
- Encourage coordination between school and community programs to prevent tobacco use and addiction.

**Want to give your child the best Christmas present ever?**

**Tell them that this year, you will quit smoking.**



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**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEES**