

# Prevent the Sale!

Newsletter for Idaho Tobacco Retailers

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Sponsored by Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

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### Tobacco News Here and Around the World

By Cheryl Dudley

#### Idaho Businesses Required to Train Employees

By law, any employee who sells tobacco should 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 under 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. By selling tobacco products to minors, not only could you be fined, you are also helping promote destructive, unhealthy lifestyles in our country's most valuable resource—our children.

#### New Tobacco-Free Advocate on Capital Hill

President Barack Obama nominated William Corr, executive director of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, as deputy secretary of Health and Human Services, according to the New York Times. The nomination requires Senate confirmation.

#### National Kick Butts Day

Kick Butts Day is a national day of activism aimed at empowering youth to fight against tobacco addiction. The date this year is Wednesday, March 25. Organizations are encouraged to empower youth to stand out and speak out against tobacco use. For more information on Kick Butts Day, including free posters and bookmarks, go to <http://kickbuttsday.org>.

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, in addition to hosting Kick Butts Day, also awards youth advocates who fight to promote tobacco prevention in legislation and in their home states. The organization provides a \$5,000 scholarship to the national winner, \$2500 for each regional winner, a \$2500 grant to a group and \$2,000 to the international grant winner.

The winner of the Youth Advocate of the Year has helped reduce tobacco marketing to kids in their communities and have stopped their peers from using tobacco. In 2008, Clinton Joe Peterson of Atlantic, Iowa, won the prestigious award. Nominations are now open for the 2009 winner. Visit [www.tobaccofreekids.org](http://www.tobaccofreekids.org) for more information.

#### Tobacco Worldwide Concern

Tobacco is not just a health issue in the United States—it's worldwide. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, tobacco use killed one hundred million people. If tobacco use trends continue, one billion people will die from its use in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The top five cigarette-consuming countries are China, the U.S., Russia, Japan and Indonesia. In China, nearly 70 percent of the males smoke.

## Raising Cigarette Taxes Saves Lives

National polls indicating overwhelming public support for tobacco tax increases because it helps prevent kids from smoking. Every 10 percent increase in the price of cigarettes reduces youth smoking by about seven percent and overall cigarette consumption by about four percent. Congress currently voted to increase federal tobacco taxes by 61 cents to fund reauthorization and expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

## 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.

## Philanthropists Combat Tobacco Epidemic

In 2008 Michael Bloomberg and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation committed \$500 million to the global fight against tobacco use. The tobacco epidemic is worsening in the developing world, where it is estimated that more than 80 percent of tobacco-caused death will occur in coming decades. The generous contribution will focus on helping governments in developing countries implement proven policies and programs that will reduce tobacco use.

## Idaho Tobacco Project

The Idaho Tobacco Project offers a variety of information online that you might find interesting and useful. At [www.tobaccopermits.com/idaho](http://www.tobaccopermits.com/idaho), you can renew tobacco permits, read about inspections, statistics for the state, and check on how businesses are doing in regard to compliance.

Businesses that do not fall into the bar/lounge or adult entertainment category are eligible for regular inspections with a minor inspector. Once inspections are completed, the compliance rate is posted online.

**Go to the Prevent the Sale Web site for training and resource materials**

[www.preventthesale.com/idaho](http://www.preventthesale.com/idaho)

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