

Prevent the Sale!

Newsletter for Idaho Tobacco Retailers

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Sponsored by Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

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Going for the Grade: Keeping Compliance Rates at an "A"

By Cheryl Dudley

Facts and Stats

"B+" Average for APRIL

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 APRIL 2008

- ❖ 251 Vendors were inspected.*
- ❖ 28 Vendors sold to the inspecting minor.
- ❖ The compliance rate for the month of April 2008 was 88.8%

*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?"

Unhappy Smokers

Beginning in 2007, the state of California began requiring all cigarettes sold in the state to be self-extinguishing. Smokers are up in arms, claiming whatever "chemical" is added to the cigarettes to make them extinguish is making them sick.

"Myself and friends, family who smoke them all have this horrible congested cough after smoking these lately in the last couple of months," said a blogger from Stockton, Calif.

"The new formula not only tastes funny, but it leaves my mouth and throat all nasty feeling (cotton mouth immediately after smoking)," said a blogger from San Francisco. "This is one quick way to make a non-smoker out of me, as I feel like I am having an allergic reaction everytime I lite up. Also they are giving me a headache," he continued.

Other states are slowly following California's model for self-extinguishing cigarettes.

Unlikely Ammunition

Kittie Peacock knows how to squelch a robbery. An AP news release out of Des Moines, Iowa, reported that Kitty, the cashier of a cigarette store, threw cans of chewing tobacco at a robber, hitting him in the face. The robber was then tackled by a customer, but broke free and bolted out the door.

Research Discovers New Methods for Diagnosis

Cells lining the mouth reflect the molecular damage that smoking does to the lining of the lungs, researchers at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer

Center report today at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Examining oral tissue lining the mouth to gauge cancer-inducing molecular alterations in the lungs could spare patients and those at risk of lung cancer from more invasive, uncomfortable procedures used now, said senior researcher Li Mao, M.D., professor in M. D. Anderson's Department of Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical Oncology.

"Our study provides the first systematic evidence that accessible tissue, the oral epithelium, can be used to monitor molecular events in less accessible tissue," Bhutani said. "This provides a convenient biomonitoring method to provide insight into the molecular events that take place in the lungs of chronic smokers."

"Our study opens the door to enhancing our ability to predict who has higher probability of getting tobacco-related cancers," Mao said. "Not only lung cancer, but pancreatic, bladder and head-and-neck cancers, which also are associated with tobacco use." For more information, look at: <http://www.mdanderson.org/>

Is Your Business a Winning Team?

Most employees want to comply with the tobacco law. Good training and follow-up will help them avoid mistakes and prevent the sale to a minor. With the right training and supervision, you can make your business a winning team.

And the truth is, tobacco fines are easily avoided. Be sure to check your customer's ID's, understand the law, and know your store policies. By preventing the sale of tobacco to minors, you will not only be following the law and avoiding costly fines, but you can have a part in ensuring a happy and healthy future for Idaho's youth.

Fine Structure for Clerks who sell tobacco to minors

- Clerk's get fined each and every time they are caught selling tobacco to minors – There is **no** warning for the first violation!
- Citations for selling to a minor are issued directly to the clerks. It is the responsibility of the clerk, **not** the business to pay the fine. The fine for each violation is **\$100.00**

Compliance Rates

Last April, 267 tobacco vendors were inspected. Out of those, 44 sold tobacco to the inspecting minor, giving the state of Idaho a "B" on its compliance rate for that month. In April, 2006, 50 of the 365 vendors inspected sold to the inspecting minor—another "B" grade for the state. In 2005 and 2004, the compliance rates were more than 90%, giving tobacco vendors an "A" for those two years.

We shouldn't settle for less than an "A!" Be ready for the inspection team! Say "No" to any minor who tries to buy cigarettes. Know the law and follow it.

A True Story

By Vince Evans

One hot summer day when I was 14 years old, I was doing what any other kid would be doing--playing. I was actually skateboarding in front of my house, video taping myself. I thought I was the best.

When I took a break to get a drink, my 17-year-old sister grabbed me out of the blue, and told me to follow her to the back yard. Now, I had no clue what was going on, but I thought it was something exciting or cool, you know. I was wrong! My sister, who I thought didn't smoke, grabbed a red and white box of cigarettes, took one out, lit it, and said, "Here, smoke this as fast you can."

I did what I was told and I got all messed up. I guess I could say I smoked that thing in a minute. I have never been light-headed like that before. So a few minutes later, after coughing a new lung, I was sick and started puking my guts out. I was dizzy and really bummed out.

My sister thought it was funny and was laughing at me for a long time. I asked her what she did to me. She told me she was just trying to prevent me from smoking in the future! I really thought I wasn't ever going to smoke again, but I was wrong.

A couple weeks later... I picked up the smoking after my sister! I know she tried to prevent me from smoking, but it obviously didn't work how she wanted it to work. Now, at the age 18, I am still smoking, and can't stop.



So, when you read this story, learn from it, and don't introduce other people to do bad habits that could affect their future!

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What's Inside:

- * **Unhappy Smokers**
- * **New Methods for Cancer Diagnosis**
- * **Non-Compliance Fines**
- * **Past Compliance Rates**
- * **A Young Smoker's Story**

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