



A Newsletter for Idaho Tobacco Retailers Sponsored by Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

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Contact us: 208-334-0642

ID Tobacco Project Website: healthandwelfare.idaho.gov
Select the "Families" menu and then "Substance Abuse"
On that page select the box titled "Idaho Tobacco Project"

Facts and Stats

Grade "A" for March

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 March 2016:

- 237 Vendors were inspected.*
- 11 Vendors sold to the inspecting minor.
- The compliance rate for the month was 95.36%

*Non-minor Exempt Inspections where purchase attempts were made.

Prevent the Sale Website

[Preventthesale.com/
Idaho](http://Preventthesale.com/Idaho)

Look for our new game, additional training and point-of-sale resources for retailers, and updated ID information!

Guilty of non-compliance? What happens next?

By Cheryl Reed

Idaho's Prevention of Minors' Access to Tobacco Products law is there to protect Idaho's youth from the damage caused by early tobacco use. Idaho's code provides helpful and detailed information for businesses who sell tobacco products, including how businesses should train employees. (See www.preventthesale.com/Idaho. Select "Know the Law" to download a copy of the code.)

If you haven't received training on the law, you should speak with your employer immediately. The outcomes of non-training can cost both you and your employer. You can access training at www.preventthesale.com/Idaho under "Resources" and download the training presentation, as well as, review the helpful information throughout the Prevent The Sale website to familiarize yourself with all aspects of the law.

Each year the Department of Health and Welfare conducts random, unannounced inspections of business that sell tobacco products to ensure compliance with Prevention of Minors' Access to Tobacco Projects law. For inspections where a minor is used, the minor must carry a valid Idaho issued identification with them and will always be truthful if asked questions. The inspecting minor is always accompanied by the adult inspector. Following the compliance inspection, the business will receive a letter within two days letting them know about the outcome of the inspection. Many businesses do not know they have been inspected until they receive the letter.

If tobacco is sold to a minor during an inspection, the seller (the employee who sold the tobacco) will personally receive a \$100 fine that must be paid within 10 days. The seller will be fined \$100 each time they make a sale to a minor. Businesses are notified of each violation of the seller. On their employee's first violation, business are given a warning. On the second violation within two years, the business will be fined \$200. Further violations can include a revocation of the tobacco permit and stiffer financial penalties for the business. Business must pay their fines in full before they can renew their permit annually.

Selling tobacco to Idaho's youth hurts everyone. Avoid fines for yourself and your employer by being committed to protecting Idaho's youth. Be sure to follow the law and say, "No" each and every time a minor asked to purchase tobacco.

Idaho Rankings

Idaho ranks 15th overall compared to other states in the nation, when counting the number of adult smokers. That means about 16.9% of all adult Idahoans are smokers compared to the national average of 18.4%. Among youth smokers ages 12-17 years, Idaho ranks 7th among other states. That means about 8.9% of our youth smoke as compared to 10.1% nationally. The mortality rate for adult smokers in Idaho is 8th among other states. That means about 1,500 people die each year in Idaho from smoking-attributable diseases.

As tobacco retailers, you are the first line of defense to prevent youth from taking that first cigarette. By following Idaho law, and refusing to sell tobacco to minors, you can reduce the number of young people who begin using tobacco and then turn into adult smokers. This will, in turn, reduce the number of smoking related diseases and deaths in Idaho due to smoking. So keep up the good work. You can find out more on Idaho's standing in comparison to the nation at

http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/state_data/state_highlights/2010/states/idaho/index.htm

Do You Like Statistics?

Speaking of compliance rates and rankings, did you know that you can track the compliance rates of your Idaho County on the Tobacco Project website? If you're a stats junkie and curious about how your county rates in regard to compliance to Idaho tobacco policies, just go to <http://www.tobacopermits.com/Idaho/>, select "Statistics" then "Non-Compliance Rates" and do some yearly comparisons.

It's good to know that what you do matters. Rankings and statistics can help you see that all the work you do preventing the sale of tobacco to minors really does work.



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