

Employers: Training Employees is the Law

By Cheryl Dudley

Facts and Stats

“A” 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. In NOVEMBER 2005:

- ❖ 224 Vendors were inspected.*
- ❖ 18 Vendors sold to the inspecting minor.
- ❖ The compliance rate for the month of November 2005 was 92%

*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?"

It's the Law: Idaho businesses that sell tobacco products *must* train employees

The "Prevent the Sale" Website is provided by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and its partners to assist employers in training their employees on selling tobacco products.

Any employee who sells tobacco must sign a form indicating that they understand the state law's requirements.

This form can be found at:

www.preventthesale.com/Idaho/form/htm

The Web site is also helpful as a teaching tool for employees.



5 Tips for Passing a Compliance Check

When minors walk in your store, you can never be sure if they're there for that dreaded compliance check. Minors who work with a compliance check team are trained to act unsuspecting and to dress normally, so don't count on your intuition to make the judgment call.

But whether the minor is part of a compliance check or not, your reaction should be the same, and your answer should always be the same: NO!

Just in case you feel uncertain about your ability to say "no" to a minor, here's 7 tips to empower you in the process and to keep you from paying a hefty fine by selling tobacco products to a minor.

1. Train yourself to identify a fraudulent identification.

2. Roll-play with co-workers on how to say "no" effectively and firmly. Have a co-worker challenge you and work on your responses under difficult circumstances.

3. Ask you customers questions like: "are you 18 years old?" If the customer says, "no," your job is easy. If the customer says yes and you suspect the customer isn't 18, check their ID and learn the signs of fake IDs. Help with fake ID identification can be found at www.preventthesale.com.

4. Remember that compliance checks have been proven highly successful in reducing the sale of tobacco to minors. Even if you aren't guilty of selling to minors, be glad that someone cares enough to pay attention.

5. Also remember that even if the minor is your friend, selling him or her tobacco is no favor. The majority of children who start smoking never stop. There's a good chance that their lives will be cut short because of their smoking habit – that you contributed to. Practice saying "no," even to your friends.

Boise State University Head of Health Services Works to Ban Smoking Campus Wide

If Ferdinand Schlapper is successful, all smoking on the BSU campus will be banned. That includes on the grounds, in any of the buildings, and in vehicles. Consequently, BSU would be the first 4-year college to have this type of ban.

Schlapper isn't shy about his intent. "I want to eradicate this from the planet," he says in the November 12, 2005 edition of the Idaho Press Tribune. After taking a survey of BSU students and staff, however, only 34% say they'd support such a ban. In the survey, though, 92% of respondents indicated that having the right to breathe clean air should have precedence over having the right to smoke.

Smokers at BSU argue that there's plenty of clean air right outside the doors and away from designated smoking areas.

Schlapper claims that high-achieving students would be attracted to a smoke-free campus and that it would be a great selling point for the university.

TODAYS TIDBIT

A new study shows that raising tobacco taxes by 10 percent will decrease the number of kids who smoke by as much as 7 percent.

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PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEES