

TiPS could cut illicit alcohol buys

Anti-Drug Coalition sets free training for store clerks

THE DAILY NEWS JOURNAL. From the Nashville, TN, Tennessean.

The Community Anti-Drug Coalition of Rutherford County is providing free training to help store clerks stop intoxicated or underage people from buying alcohol.

Off-Premise TiPS training will be offered 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25, at the Murfreesboro Housing Authority auditorium located at 415. N. Maple St. in Murfreesboro.

TiPS (Training for Intervention ProcedureS) is the global leader in education and training for the responsible service, sale, and consumption of alcohol. TiPS is a skills-based training program that is designed to prevent intoxication, underage drinking, and drunk driving.

The two-hour training will be presented by certified TiPS trainer Jason Urban. Reservations are required for attendance and can be made by contacting Karen Claud at 893-9414 ext. 32 or through e-mail at kclaud@cadcor.org. Deadline to register is Friday.

“Grocery stores, liquor stores, gas stations and convenience store employees encounter challenges and alcohol-related problems when selling alcohol ‘to go,’” says Urban. “Clerks must be especially careful not to sell alcohol to underage or intoxicated customers and they usually have little time to assess the situation when making the sale.”

TiPS for Off Premise teaches sales clerks how to recognize when a customer is intoxicated or underage. In addition to preventing the illegal sale of alcohol, store employees learn how to handle intoxicated customers and keep them from harming themselves and others. The intervention techniques reflect the short period of time a clerk has to interact with a customer.

Liquor boards and local authorities tend to look favorably on stores that incorporate TiPS, which can lead to more lenient penalties in the event of a liquor violation. TiPS for Off Premise can also help a store protect itself from possible litigation and often results in reduced liability insurance premiums.

“Stores that proactively engage their employees in attending TiPS training demonstrate a commitment to preventing alcohol-related problems and a desire to be a part of the solution,” says Claud.

CADCOR is an alliance of community agencies, groups and individuals uniting for a common cause, to reduce substance use and abuse by youth and create strong and safe communities. More information about CADCOR and its work in the community can be found at www.cadcor.org.