

Preventing Injuries from Robberies & Assaults

Security Measures and Security Systems

Make the Workplace Safer

The employer should make these changes in the workplace to provide better security:

- Improve lighting in work areas.
- Improve lighting and security in parking lots and other areas where workers go alone at night.
- Provide more than one exit that workers can reach in case of emergency.
- Post emergency telephone numbers.
- Post laws against assault, stalking, and violent acts.
- Have working locks and alarms kept in good condition.
- Have a way to communicate with the police or security personnel, like a “panic” button or silent alarm.
- Provide surveillance cameras and/or mirrors.

DID YOU KNOW?

Workplace violence is one of the leading causes of death on the job. Most violent acts in the workplace are committed by outsiders, not by workers.



Follow Safe Work Practices

The employer should adopt policies and require work practices that reduce the chance of assault:

- Train workers to be alert and aware of their surroundings.
- Train workers on what to do in case of a crime or potentially violent situation.
- Require workers to keep background noise down so people will be aware of any problem.
- Schedule at least two people per shift, especially at night.
- Set up a “buddy system” for workers who walk to public transportation and parking areas.
- Make sure back doors are locked, especially at night. (People should still be able to exit easily.)
- Set up a reporting process for violent incidents and threats.

Handling Cash

Make the Workplace Safer

Robbery is the most common motive for violent workplace incidents. When a store or other business deals with the public and handles cash, especially at night, the employer should make these additional changes in the workplace to provide better security:

- Leave a clear, unobstructed view of the cash register area from the street. Remove “clutter” from windows so the interior can easily be seen from outside.
- Post signs that the cash register only contains a small amount of cash.
- Provide a “drop safe” for storing larger amounts of cash.



Follow Safe Work Practices

The employer should adopt policies and require work practices that reduce the chance of violence from robbery:

- Train workers to be aware of what’s happening inside and outside of the workplace, and to call the police about anything suspicious.
- Instruct workers to make eye contact with customers and other outsiders who enter.
- Train workers on what to do in case of robbery:
 - Cooperate with the assailant
 - Avoid sudden or suspicious moves; don’t startle the assailant
 - Hand over cash
 - Don’t try to fight or chase the assailant
 - Lock the door as soon as the assailant leaves
 - Call the police
- Set up a “buddy system” for cash drops.
- Require workers not to count out the cash receipts in front of customers.