

Crime Prevention in Changing Times

Crime Prevention Week - November 1st to 7th, 2017

Crime Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility



Business Crime Prevention

Crime can be devastating to businesses small and large. Shoplifting, robbery, credit/debit card fraud, break and enter, vandalism and employee theft impacts the assets and safety of a business, no matter what size.

In order to lay the foundation for preventing crime in places of work and businesses, organizations should examine the physical layout, overall security, hiring practices and number of employees to determine vulnerability to external and internal threats.

Reducing Opportunity

Often crimes against businesses are crimes of opportunity, failure to take security precautions can invite criminal elements into a business. Here are some ideas of what you can do.

- Establish and enforce clear policies about employee theft, employee substance abuse, crime reporting, opening and closing the business, and other security procedures. Provide training for all employees on security procedures
- Keep detailed, up-to-date business records including comprehensive inventories, banking records and serial numbers for equipment and machinery. Engrave all valuable office equipment and tools with an identification number such as a driver's license, or other unique number. Store back-up copies off premises. If a business is ever victimized, quick access to this information can assist in any investigation and help to expedite the insurance process.
- Maintain the property. A rundown business or building with attract criminals. Ensure the building, the landscaping, the sidewalks and the parking areas are all clean and well-maintained. Secure fire escape ladders so that they cannot be used to access the roof. Do not keep old or damaged displays, posters or signs. Keep entrance and access points to building well-lit at night. Clean up vandalism as soon as it happens.
- Install a visible, working, high quality surveillance system that will deter crime from being committed and assist in investigations when it does.

Store Layout

- Have the checkout counter near the front of the store, to allow employees to monitor activities inside and outside the store. Do not use large displays or posters that would cover the windows.
- Clearly mark public and private areas. Control access to private areas making these spaces hard to access for non-employees, remembering to secure back doors as well.
- Install an alarm system that is monitored and consider a panic button in case of robbery. If activated, law enforcement will be contacted.

Robbery

- Employees who work alone need specific training for working alone and on any check-in systems that are in place. If it is necessary to work alone, offer a friendly greeting to people who enter the business. Make direct and friendly eye contact but do not stare or be confrontational. Keep an eye on anyone who is loitering, ask if they need assistance. Stay alert and call the police to report any suspicious activity or people.
- Keep minimal amounts of cash in registers so if robbed, the loss is minimal. Do not make bank deposits at the same time every day, rather vary them, so that no one can predict your schedule. Do not make deposits at night, instead use a drop safe in which excess cash can be dropped into and cannot be accessed or retrieved.
- Consider posting a notice advising that there is limited cash on hand.
- If threatened with a weapon and demands money, let the robber know you intend to cooperate — give them the cash and merchandise they ask for and do exactly as they say.
- Do not try to stop or chase the robber — always assume the robber has a weapon, even if you do not see one.
- Keep it short and stay calm. Handle the entire situation as if you were making a sale to a customer. The longer a robbery takes the more nervous a robber becomes. If you have a silent alarm and can activate it without being noticed, do so, otherwise wait until the robber has left.
- Call 9-1-1. Immediately after calling the police, write down everything you can remember about the incident, including a description of the robber and any escape vehicle and license plate numbers, and the direction of travel you were able to observe.
- Consider having a readily available check sheet available to assist you in remembering the details of a suspect's description so that you might best help police in their investigation.



