



Commercial Robbery Prevention



The outward appearance and security of the building may determine if a business will be burglarized or robbed. Every opening represents a security breach and should be inspected. Remember to establish a closing routine where employees lock doors and windows and set the alarm. Work with businesses and offices nearby. Arrange regular meetings with other businesses to discuss problems and solutions that benefit everyone.

Also refer to the handout on Commercial Burglary Prevention.

In The Event of A Robbery

Before A Robbery

- ◇ Greet everyone who enters your business.
- ◇ Keep doors and windows clear of signs and posters to allow good two-way visibility.
- ◇ Use video surveillance and make it well known. Place a camera behind the cash register facing the front counter.
- ◇ Make bank deposits at least once a day.
- ◇ Install a robbery alarm.
- ◇ Make your sales counter clearly visible to outside observers. Trim landscaping for a good view into and out of your business.
- ◇ A clean environment is good for business and uncomfortable for robbers.
- ◇ Keep your business well-lit inside and outside.

After a Robbery

- ◇ Close the store and lock the doors.
- ◇ Call the police; even if the alarm was activated.
- ◇ Don't touch anything the robber may have touched.
- ◇ Ask witnesses to stay until the police arrive.
- ◇ Only step outside when the police arrive and contact you via telephone.

- ◇ Call your business owner, manager or other designated person.

During a Robbery

- ◇ Stay calm and don't resist!
- ◇ Do as instructed. Don't make sudden moves.
- ◇ Keep your hands in sight at all times.
- ◇ Get a look at the robber but don't stare.
- ◇ If safe - Get a description of the robber's vehicle and direction of travel.
- ◇ Activate the panic alarm ONLY when it's safe.
- ◇ Personal safety first! Money and merchandise are not important.
- ◇ Don't chase or follow the robber out of your place of business. Let the police catch the robber!

Tips

- ◇ Use a drop safe that is secured to the floor.
- ◇ Post signs indicating limited cash on hand.