

Commercial Robbery Prevention



Commercial robbery is a frightening and potentially dangerous situation. These types of crimes victimize a business, its employees and even its customers. Always keep in mind: your money and property can be replaced but you cannot—is it really worth your life?

Unlike property crimes such as burglary, you can't prevent a robbery merely by locking your valuables. But you can dissuade potential robbers by minimizing temptation and maximizing their chance of being caught. Develop policies for prevention and what to do in the event of a robbery and its aftermath. Ensure employees are familiar with the policies and abide by them.

**For emergencies,
call 9-1-1**

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 good video surveillance and make it well known.
- Make bank deposits at least once a day.
- Place a surveillance camera behind the cash register facing the front counter.
- Install a robbery alarm.
- Make your sales counter clearly visible to outside observers.
- 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 9-1-1; even if the alarm was activated.
- Don't touch anything the robber may have touched.
- Ask witnesses to stay until the deputies arrive.
- Only step outside when the deputies 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 deputies catch the robber!

Tips

- Use a drop safe that is secured to the floor.
- Post signs indicating limited cash on hand.
- Professionally install security cameras to capture the best images of the suspects.
- Trim landscaping for good view into and out of your business.

Remember this . . .

- Remain CALM!
- Get a good description of the suspect
- If safe—get a vehicle description
- Call 9-1-1 as soon as possible



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