

COMMERCIAL ROBBERY PREVENTION



Commercial robberies occur after your business closes and are often crimes of opportunity. An unlocked door or open window is what criminals look for. Owners should take an active role to reduce opportunity on their property. The first step is to consider how the physical property looks from the burglar's view. To reduce vulnerability, look at security measures like updating locks, lighting and alarms. The goal of security is to reduce opportunity.

The outward appearance and security of the building may determine if a business will be burglarized. 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.

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

Emergencies, call 911

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 face 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.
- ◇ Professionally install security cameras to capture the best images of the suspects.
- ◇ Trim landscaping for good view into and out of your business.

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Remain CALM!

Get a good description of the robber.

If safe - Get vehicle description.

Call 911 as soon as possible.