

HAZARD ALERT:

CONVENIENCE STORE

ROBBERY SAFETY

A ROBBERY WAS COMMITTED **EVERY TWO HOURS** IN KENTUCKY IN 2015

There were 3,826 robberies in Kentucky in 2015, 155 of which were chain store robberies

SEVEN RETAIL AND CONVENIENCE STORE WORKERS WERE KILLED DURING ROBBERIES IN KENTUCKY FROM 2009-2015. HERE ARE SOME OF THEIR STORIES:

Case

1

A convenience store clerk was robbed with a weapon for cash at 2:30 am on a weeknight. Before leaving, the assailant shot the clerk in the stomach and wrist. The clerk dialed 911 for assistance following the robbery. Unfortunately, he died during surgery at the hospital.

Case

2

Just after 3 pm a 51-year-old gas station clerk was shot in the chest during a robbery. He was found unresponsive behind the counter by a customer a short time after the incident. He later died at the hospital.

Case

3

At 2:47 am a 30-year-old male convenience store clerk was shot in the chest during a robbery. He was rushed to the hospital where he later was removed from life support. The assailant later committed suicide.

DURING A ROBBERY:

- ◆ **NEVER try to be the hero. Cooperate and provide exactly what is asked for.**
- ◆ **Always assume that the robber has a weapon, even if one is not visible.**
- ◆ **All weapons or implied weapons should be regarded as real and dangerous.**
- ◆ **Do not make loud noises or sudden movements.**
- ◆ **Make mental notes of their appearance, but do not make eye contact.**
- ◆ **Use pre-established 'code words' to signal for employees to notify authorities.**
- ◆ **Discreetly activate the alarm, but only when you can do so safely.**

SAFETY TIPS TO BECOMING SECURITY CONSCIOUS



PROCEDURAL

- Don't hesitate to notify police if you notice something suspicious. Keep law enforcement and emergency contact information posted clearly for workers.
- Secure your checkout operation. Keep cash in drawer to a minimum.
- Employers should review robbery procedures and alarm system operations frequently with employees so that they know what to do.
- Remember, there is better safety in numbers. At a minimum, open and close the store daily with at least 2 employees, especially when it is dark outside.



PHYSICAL DETERRENTS

- Maintain clear visibility into your business at all times. Never block the view into the store by crowding windows with signs, posters, advertisements, etc.
- Ensure that all entrances, exits, parking areas, and break areas are well lit.
- Consider installing barriers to keep unauthorized persons out of the area where cash transactions take place. Ensure that the cash register is clearly visible from outside of the store to allow patrolling officers to see inside.
- Place clearly visible signage in the windows and entry that state the use of security features, such as cameras, minimum cash-on-hand policies, and a drop safe.
- Install a hold-up alarm system. This system should have access points distributed throughout the store. Periodically test the video surveillance and alarm systems with assistance from the alarm company.



CASH HANDLING

- Keep safe locked at all times.
- Keep cash on premises to a minimum. Make frequent, varied cash drops throughout the day or week. Ensure that at least two employees perform a cash drop, or utilize a courier service.
- Make bank deposits in pairs and during daylight hours if possible.

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Robbery statistics provided by 2015 KSP Crime in Kentucky Annual Report:
http://www.kentuckystatepolice.org/pdf/cik_2015.pdf