

Robbery Tips and Prevention

Robbery is one of the most serious and potentially dangerous crimes committed in the United States today. Robbery usually occurs quickly and can be very violent. The business owner or manager should plan ahead and reduce the dangers and potential losses. The criminal will be less likely to choose a target if they see that the profit margin is lowered and the chances of getting caught have increased greatly by safety measures in place. Personal safety should always be at the top of the list when planning how to react to an armed robbery.

Employees should be trained in the latest methods of robbery prevention, which will improve their chances for their personal safety and allow them to assist police in the follow up investigation.

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Citrus Heights Police Department

Business Robbery Prevention Brochure



If you need to report a crime in progress, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Robbery prevention & tips:

- Inspect the business for forcible entry before entering the business.
- Have several employees present when opening and closing the business. An effort should be made to always have two employees on duty.
- Do not open to strangers before or after regular business hours.
- Lock rear and side doors during evening hours.
- At closing, make sure no one is hiding in the business.
- Use signs to indicate you have an alarm system.
- Be aware of the alarm verification and robbery procedures with police.
- Devise a system whereby employees can alert each other of a robbery in progress.
- Keep minimum cash on hand, use a safe, take precautions when making bank deposits.
- Always keep money out of reach of customers and in safe often.
- Storage rooms should have a lock that can be opened from the inside.
- Use surveillance camera equipment, convex mirrors and place cash registers in an area that is clearly visible from the outside.
- Report suspicious activity to the police.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers.
- Light all entrances. Maintain good exterior lighting. Keep windows clear of signs that block the view from the street.
- Trim all shrubbery and trees that a criminal could use to hide.
- Establish personnel who will take certain actions if a robbery occurs. Decide now which employee will lock the doors, call the police, care for the injured, look for the getaway car, protect the evidence, etc.

In the event of a Robbery:

- Remain calm, cool, and observant. Give the robbers the money they want.
- Try to keep customers and employees calm during the robbery.
- Be cooperative, follow the robber's directions, and do not volunteer more than they ask for.
- Do not resist the robbers.
- If you are handed a note, place it out of sight and retain it for evidence.
- If the robbers display a firearm or claims to have one, consider it loaded and that they would use it.
- Do not make overt moves. If you must go into your pocket for a key or take any action the robbers might misinterpret, tell them what you are doing, and why you are doing this.
- Activate the alarm only if it is safe to do so.
- Follow the robber's commands, but do not volunteer to help. The longer the robbery takes, the more nervous the robbers may become.
- Make as many mental notes as possible about the robbers—description, mannerisms, age, height, weight, tattoos, scars, birth marks, piercing, clothing, type of weapon, jewelry worn, which hand the weapon was held, etc.
- Look for a getaway vehicle. Note color, make, license number, and distinguishing features, such as damage, equipment malfunctions.
- If confronted with armed robbers take no action that will jeopardize your safety, or that of others. All of us should remember safety first. Cash can be replaced but a life cannot.

After the Robbery:

- Do not chase or follow the robbers.
- Call the police immediately if not already done so.
- Give a description of suspects and locations.
- Lock all exterior doors, keep everyone inside the business and touch nothing until police arrive.
- Follow the directions of the 9-1-1 Dispatcher.
- Protect the scene and do not touch anything the robbers may have touched.
- Prevent anyone from going into areas where the robbers may have been.
- Preserve any potential evidence.
- Do not trust your memory; write down all descriptions and facts about the robbery.
- Do not discuss the robbery among employees or other witnesses until the police have had the opportunity to interview all those involved.
- Care for the injured.
- Ask witnesses to remain until the police arrive. If they insist on leaving, try to obtain their names and addresses.
- Assist the investigating officers in every way possible. Do not be reluctant to identify suspects and giving evidence in court when notified to do so.

