

NIOSH ALERT

Preventing Homicide in the Workplace

WARNING!

Workers in certain industries and occupations are at increased risk of homicide.

Homicide is the third leading cause of death from occupational injury for all workers. Guns are the most commonly used weapon. Employers and workers should take the following steps to protect themselves from homicide in the workplace:

1. Be aware of which workplaces and occupations have the highest risk of work-related homicides:

Workplaces

- Taxicab establishments
- Liquor stores
- Gas stations
- Detective/protective services
- Justice/public order establishments
- Grocery stores
- Jewelry stores
- Hotels/motels
- Eating/drinking places

Occupations

- Taxicab drivers/chauffeurs
- Law enforcement officers (police officers/sheriffs)
- Hotel clerks
- Gas station workers
- Security guards
- Stock handlers/baggers
- Store owners/managers
- Bartenders

2. Learn the factors that may increase the risk of homicide:

- Exchange of money with the public
- Working alone or in small numbers
- Working late night or early morning hours
- Working in high-crime areas
- Guarding valuable property or possessions
- Working in community settings

3. Evaluate your workplace and take steps that may prevent homicides. Preventive measures may include the following:

- Make high-risk areas visible to more people.
- Install good external lighting.
- Use drop safes to minimize cash on hand.
- Carry small amounts of cash.
- Post signs stating that limited cash is on hand.
- Install silent alarms.
- Install surveillance cameras.
- Increase the number of staff on duty.
- Provide training in conflict resolution and nonviolent response.
- Avoid resistance during robbery.
- Provide bullet-proof barriers or enclosures.
- Have police check on workers routinely.
- Close establishments during high-risk hours (late at night and early in the morning).

For additional information, see *NIOSH Alert: Request for Assistance in Preventing Homicide in the Workplace* [DHHS (NIOSH) 93-109], or call 1-800-35-**NIOSH**. Single copies of the Alert are available free from the following:

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Publications Dissemination
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45226

1-800-35-**NIOSH** (1-800-356-4674)
Fax number: (513) 533-8573



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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