

REDUCE YOUR RISK FOR ROBBERY AND ROBBERY-RELATED INJURY

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recently conducted a study of 460 convenience store robberies in three metropolitan areas of Virginia. The purpose of this study was two-fold: 1) to evaluate the effect of environmental and organizational interventions on reducing the number of robberies; and 2) to evaluate the effect of these interventions on reducing injuries to employees during robberies. Your store was eligible for participation in this study. A summary of the findings and recommendations are listed below.

RISK FACTORS FOR BEING ROBBED

- Poor cash handling policy
- Lack of bullet-resistant shielding
- Poor visibility of clerk/cash register from outside of store
- Lack of employee training in robbery prevention
- Lack of security systems
- Surrounding environmental characteristics (for example, stores not located in shopping centers, distance to graffiti, and distance to multifamily housing)

RISK FACTORS FOR INJURY WHILE A ROBBERY IS TAKING PLACE

- Actively resisting robbery
- Robbers are unarmed
- Lack of customers present
- Lack of drop safes
- Lack of employee training

WHAT MANAGERS CAN DO

- Install proper drop safes and post signs that drop safes are used
- Train employees in robbery prevention
- Install and maintain security systems
- Keep windows free of signs, advertisements, and other obstructions
- Make cashier area visible from outside the store

WHAT EMPLOYEES CAN DO

- Make cash drops often
- Attend robbery prevention training
- If robbery does occur:
 - stay calm
 - do not try to stop the robbery
 - cooperate with the robber's requests

For more information:
Call NIOSH at: **1-800-35-NIOSH (356-4674)**
or visit the NIOSH Website at: **www.cdc.gov/niosh**