

NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT

ST. LOUIS METRO. POLICE DEPT.

NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT FACT SHEET

Armed Robbery

An armed or aggravated robbery is a traumatic experience for victims and witnesses. Premises are vehicles that handle or carry cash are potential robbery targets.

This information booklet provides practical advice to reduce your chances of becoming a victim of armed robbery. It also gives advice on what you can do if you are a victim of a robbery or witness, to help the police in their investigation and minimize your risk of being injured.

Armed Robbery Facts

- Armed robberies have increased.
- The offender is usually stressed or may be on drugs.
- Armed robberies take less than 90 seconds.
- Offenders want an easy get-away route, quick cash and low visibility.
- Offenders don't hesitate to hurt you.

How to be Prepared

Your first concern should always be for your own safety and that of your staff. To be prepared for an armed robbery makes very good sense. You should develop a standard procedure for all your staff to follow.

HOW TO BE PREPARED CONT.

This process will help minimize risk, prevent injury or death and help police apprehend offenders.

- Businesses with large cash flow should have their cash picked-up by an Armed Truck.
- Never allow your staff members to deposit money at night alone.
- Vary your route and times to the bank.
- Use various types of cash bags.
- Report suspicious activity.

METHODS TO DETER OR REDUCE THE RISK OF ROBBERY

- Have a secure cash counting area.
- Have a time lock safe.
- Make regular cash drops in safe.
- Advertise that attendant can not open safe.
- Keep working area free of clutter.
- Video surveillance covering internal and external areas.
- Install efficient lighting outside as well as parking and rear of building.
- Have more than one employee working if possible.
- Electronic sensors or buzzers that alert you each time a person enters or exits.
- Monitored alarm systems.
- Clear view of interior and cash register from outside, so that police are able to see inside your store while on patrol.

IN THE EVENT OF A ROBBERY

If an armed robbery occurs on your premises the ultimate goal is to ensure the offender leaves the premises as soon as possible without harm or injury to anyone.

- Remain calm as best you can. Don't attempt to disarm the offender or resist this places other people or staff at risk.
- Co-operate and listen carefully and do what you are told.
- Do not stare-down the offender.
- Without staring, note the offender's description-physical features, clothing, weapon and actions.
- If the offender has a firearm consider it loaded.
- Only if it is safe note the direction of travel or description of vehicle of the offender.
- Dial 911 as soon as it is safe.
- Do not allow entry or exit to the store.
- Preserve the crime scene.

**ST LOUIS METROPOLITAN
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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WHAT DO YOU NEED?

If your business, neighborhood or other community organizations are in need of the following training please contact P.O. Joseph Calabro Community Outreach Officer 444-0169.

- Safety Training (Business, Community, Senior Living).
- Neighborhood Watch
- Robbery Prevention