

BUSINESS CRIME WATCH

BAY CITY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY October 2019 EDITION 4, VOLUME 10

Safety Tips

EIGHT SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

There are a few dangerous realities of owning a business. The greatest is perhaps the threat of armed robbery. In the U.S. alone, a commercial robbery is committed every four minutes — or about 100,000 robberies each year. That's why robbery prevention is so important.

Armed robbery is different from burglary and theft, because it isn't a crime against property, it's one against people. And though many robberies don't result in injury to the victims, that's more often due to luck than planning.

A robbery prevention strategy can help your business reduce the likelihood of falling victim. And knowing what to do if your business does get robbed, could save employee and customer lives.

Greet customers and make direct eye contact.

Greeting customers as they enter your store doesn't just improve customer service — it sends a message to any person entering the store that they have been recognized.

Be cautious about answering probing questions.

Inquiries relating to opening and closing times are to be expected, but questions or phone calls about your facility's alarm system or how many employees are on duty at any given time? Those should raise some red flags, and politely refusing to give that kind of information is a reasonable and smart way to handle the situation.

Maintain visibility throughout the store.

Make sure to provide as much visibility as possible, allowing people outside to see inside the store. This effort alone may deter some potential robbers.

One of the biggest obstructions of maintaining a clear field of vision is bad lighting. Interior lighting should be bright enough to allow people outside your business to see people inside.

Be sure to assess your lighting and the visibility it provides both day and night, and replace burned out bulbs promptly. Eliminate any dark areas around your building and parking lots by installing motion sensors that flood an area with light when motion is detected.

Lighting is only part of the equation. There should be visibility from the register area to the street at all times. So, be mindful to avoid hanging signs or putting displays on windows or around the sales counter that can obstruct the view of the register. In areas that are blocked by shelving or walls, hang concave mirrors to eliminate any blind spots.

Develop a cash control program.

Robbers are in it for the cash. And while casing the store, they'll be looking to see if you have large bills in the register. That's why a low cash policy is so important.

A good way to help deter a robbery is by keeping the smallest amount of cash on the premises as possible. And be sure to post a notice to that effect that is visible to customers.

Be discreet in cash counting and bank deposits.

The availability of large quantities of cash are too attractive to resist. Don't invite a robbery by carelessly handling money in the store.

Be discreet when counting large amounts of cash or preparing a bank deposit — ideally, in the back room while another employee handles the register out front, or when there are no customers in the store.

Depending on your business, you might opt to make bank deposits using an armored car service. If this isn't an option for you, be sure to vary both your routes to the bank, as well as your times of deposit. And take a second person along whenever possible.

Don't be obvious about going to the bank. Leave your uniform, apron, or name tag behind when you make a deposit, and do what you can to obscure the money by hiding it a paper lunch bag, a plastic sandwich container, a backpack, or shopping bag. Try to avoid depositing at night, if possible.

Take precautions during opening and closing.

Always have two employees present when opening up business for the day. Start with a visual check of the entire store before starting your daily opening routine to make sure nothing is out of the ordinary. And at closing, have employees check all back rooms, restrooms, and closets to ensure that no one remains in the store.

The person in charge of the store should have the only keys to side and back doors, and they should keep them locked at all times to prevent undetected entry.

Invest in a security alarm system.

Arming your facility with a business security system is an excellent deterrent of would-be robbers. Business security systems are monitored 24/7 by an alarm company, who immediately notifies the police when activated.

These systems offer solutions that are customizable for any business — from retail to mechanical, or clinical to food & beverage products. Seek professional guidance to get the best security system for your business needs.

And consider installing security cameras, too. They not only work as a robbery prevention tactic, but can also help with identifying a robber after the robbery has been committed.

Lastly, if an alarm system is in use at your business, clearly post security signs and stickers on points of entry.

Train your employees.

No matter how safe the inside and outside of your business may seem, managers and employees must be trained in robbery deterrence.

Training your personnel and periodically refreshing them on robbery deterrence procedures can curb robbery — and, perhaps more importantly, it can teach them to react calmly and quickly in the event a robbery does occur.

ROBBERY PREVENTION (8 TIPS)

BONUS HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIP

There have been a few armed robberies in our area and we want you to be safe. During Halloween you may have people come into your business wearing a costume. It is not a good idea for adults to wear a costume into your business. Criminals are opportunist and this is a great opportunity for them to walk into businesses, be concealed and not look out of place or suspicious. It would be a great idea to have a sign posted on your door that adults wearing costumes are not allowed.

BAY CITY BUSINESS CRIME UPDATES

09/07- A west side pet groomer reported a larceny. An unknown suspect stole a lawn decoration off of the property.

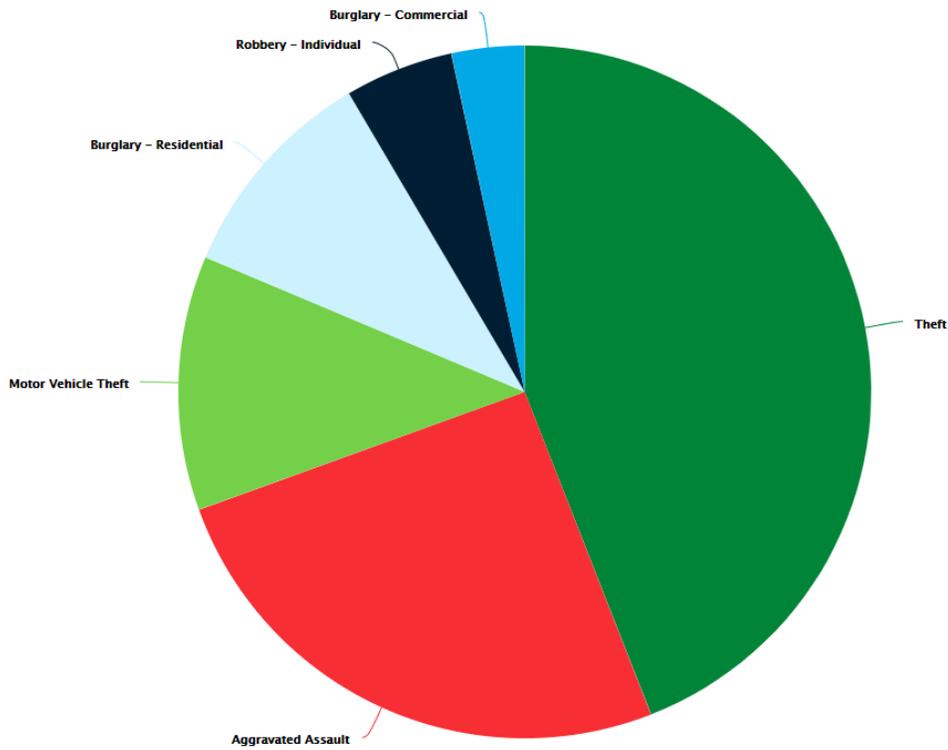
09/07- A west side convenience store reported a counterfeit complaint. A customer attempted to use a counterfeit \$20.00 bill. The clerk realized the bill was counterfeit and the customer left. This incident is still under investigation.

09/20- An east side meat market reported a burglary. An unknown suspect crawled through an unlocked window located at the back of the store. A small amount of change was taken from the business. This report is still under investigation.

09/21- An east side bar reported a burglary. An unknown suspect removed an air conditioner from a window and crawled through. There was a large amount of money that was taken from the cash drawer and the Lottery drawer. Both cash drawers were left out on the bar. This incident is still under investigation.

09/21- Officers were dispatched to a west side convenience store for an armed robbery. A black male, approx. 5'07", thin build wearing a gray sweatshirt entered the store and brandished a handgun. The unknown suspect stole money from the store and also a customer. This incident is still under investigation.

The Bay City Department of Public Safety is now utilizing Lexis Nexis Crime Mapping technology to track and report crime within the City of Bay City. <https://communitycrimemap.com> is a public website which allows you to view criminal activity reported within Bay City. Below is an analytic map of reported crime within the city from 09/01/19 to 09/30/19



Boards and Committees

- [Zoning Board of Appeals](#)
October 08, 2019, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM @ Commission Chambers
- [Historic District Commission](#)
October 09, 2019, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM @ Commission Chambers
- [Planning Commission](#)
No meeting this month

City Commission

- [Finance Policy Meeting](#)
October 07, 2019, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM @ Commission Chambers
October 21, 2019, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM @ Commission Chambers
- [Special Finance Policy Meeting](#)
No meeting this month
- [City Commission Meeting](#)
October 07, 2019, 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM @ Commission Chambers
October 21, 2019, 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM @ Commission Chambers

Community Event

- Halloween with Heroes on October 30th from 6p-8p at Wenona Park in Bay City.
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