

Preparation



No amount of preparation will guarantee that you will not become the victim of a robbery. However, planning ahead and taking preventive measures may assist you in surviving a robbery and assisting law enforcement in apprehending those responsible for committing this crime.

By realizing a robbery could happen to you and thinking ahead about how to react, you are better prepared to survive a robbery than someone caught off-guard and not knowing how to respond.



The most important goal to surviving a robbery is the safety of yourself, the employees and patrons. The best way to accomplish this goal is to get the robber to leave your establishment as soon as possible. The quickest way to achieve this is to give the robber what they ask for with as little resistance as possible and send them on their way.

Robbery Prevention & Survival Tips

The Fort Morgan Police Department is hosting a **Robbery Prevention and Survival Tips Training:**

January 26, 2012 (Thursday)

Ft. Morgan Council Chambers
110 Main Street, Ft. Morgan

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Please reserve a seat by calling
Officer Roger Doll
542-3948



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Fort Morgan Police Department

ROBBERY PREVENTION AND SURVIVAL

Business owners and individuals can do everything “right” and still become a victim of a crime. However, there are some things business owners and employees can do to make their establishment less prone to would-be criminals. In robbery education there are generally three areas discussed. 1. Things to do before a robbery 2. Things to do during a robbery. 3. Things to do after a robbery.

BEFORE

Criminals are often looking for an “easy” target. They may check out your business prior to committing a crime to gauge how difficult it would be to be successful.

They do not wish to be recognized and will “test” to see if anyone notices them. For this reason store employees should always greet customers and make eye contact with them. For a criminal looking to commit a crime, this can be threatening because they now know someone has looked at them directly and may be able to recognize them later.

Act as though you are going to rob your own store. Can people passing by see what is happening inside? If yes, this is less desirable to a criminal who doesn't want witnesses to see them committing a crime. Can employees easily see if someone is loitering outside their store, working up the courage to commit a crime? Don't cover windows with marketing material or pile boxes in front of windows.

Implement cash control strategies so that you have just enough cash on hand to conduct business. Consider a drop safe or other method of reducing the amount of money in your register. The less successful the criminal is in obtaining cash, the less likely they will return

DURING

Get them out as quickly as possible. Remember your most important goal is to not be harmed or have a customer injured. You will greatly increase the danger of being injured if you resist.

The best response is to comply with the demands of the robber. A robber may bring a weapon to gain control of the situation. Once the robbery has started, it is too late to take preventative measures. Allow the criminal to believe they have control so they will hopefully leave quickly.

Robbers are desperate people. They may be anxious and nervous or under the influence of drugs or alcohol. They may not make rational decisions and feel their need to exert their perceived authority. If a weapon is indicated, but not seen, assume they have a real weapon. If they present a weapon, assume it is real and loaded.

Do not argue, resist or fight with the robber. The quicker they leave the store, the safer you will be.

No surprises! The robber is already on edge. Don't make unexpected moves. Tell the robber that you will comply with their demands. Talk to the robber and tell them what you are doing before it happens. If you need to reach for a container or bag.

AFTER

After the robber has left, close and lock all doors to prevent the robber from re-entering and call the police immediately. Even if your business has an alarm system that has been activated, call 911 for the fastest response and an immediate connection (through police dispatchers) to responding officers.

Remain on the phone with dispatchers to relay information about the suspect description and direction of travel. Follow the instructions of arriving officers. Ask witnesses to stay until officers arrive. To calm everyone, you may ask witnesses to begin writing down what just occurred. Try not to share your experience; it's important to recall only what you are certain of.

Stop all business transactions and do not touch any areas the suspect may have touched or traveled through. Keep away from any physical evidence the robber may have left behind such as: a note, bag, or clothing.

Try to recall as much about the suspect as possible including physical appearance, clothing, type of weapon (if any), speech/accent, and notice the use of any disguises.