

SAFETY FACTS: EMPLOYEE SECURITY AT WORK

Workplace violence is violence or the threat of violence against workers. It can occur at, or outside, the workplace, and can range from threats and verbal abuse to physical assaults and homicide, which is one of the leading causes of job-related deaths.

No one is immune from the danger presented by violence. It can strike anyone at anytime. Workers are exposed to increased risk due to the nature of the jobs involved, the occupational settings, and their visibility. Awareness is the key to prevention.

IDEAS FOR EMPLOYERS

- Establish a workplace violence prevention program or include it in the existing safety program
- Make it clear that violence will not be tolerated and that any incidents will be investigated and promptly remedied
- Provide safety education for employees so that they know what to do if they witness or are subjected to violence, and how to protect themselves
- Wherever possible, secure the workplace. Make it a hard target. Consider electronic and video surveillance, extra lighting, alarm systems and minimize access through use of photo ID cards and electronic keys
- Post the Workers' Compensation Employee Security at Work Poster

IDEAS FOR EMPLOYEES

- Be aware of your environment at all times. Never enter any location where you feel unsafe. Ask to be escorted in potentially dangerous situations or at night
- Learn as much as you can to recognize, avoid or diffuse violent conditions
- Alert supervisors to hazards or concerns regarding your safety
- Avoid traveling alone into unfamiliar locations or situations whenever possible
- Always trust yourself – if it doesn't feel safe, it probably isn't