

January 2021 Safety Topic – Active Assailant and Robbery

Bonanza looks to help give employees help on safety not just at work, but home too.

The term '**Active Assailant**' has been developed to describe an armed suspect who is currently engaged in using force and violence on others to commit serious injury or death. While it is an uncomfortable topic for many to consider, it is a factor that has a possibility to affect all of us, directly or indirectly. Here are tips about what to do in these situations:

An Active Assailant may be using a blunt weapon, a knife or a gun, and these steps are here for you to use whether you are at work or out shopping. The Department of Homeland Security has this plan:

RUN, HIDE, FIGHT!

RUN: At the start of an incident, as soon as you recognize an attack is happening, RUN! Leave property behind and take only what you have on you. Run in the opposite direction of the attack and find an exit out of the area. Try and advise anyone you see to follow and get away, but do not let them slow your evacuation from the attack.

HIDE: If you feel you cannot run fast enough to escape or the attacker is already close, HIDE! Find anything that will conceal your presence, go into an office, or get under a desk. Silence your cellphone and stay quiet. IF in a room, lock the door and turn out the lights.

FIGHT: If you haven't been able to run or find a place to hide, FIGHT! It is a last resort option – but understand that at this point it is your life against that of the attacker. Commit fully to the fight, as you may be able to overpower the attacker and save your life or buy time to escape. Use anything you can as an improvised weapon (fire extinguisher, chair, scissors, broom)

Robbery is another violent issue that could occur, as we have several cash outlets on property. There are very simple rules to consider if anyone approaches a cash outlet with the intent to steal:

1. If a person approaches the register or counter and demands money, **stay calm**. Getting upset and scared will limit your ability to think and act and may increase risk. Do NOT resist.
2. Listen to their directions and keep your hands out and visible at all times.
3. If they claim to have a weapon, believe them, even if you do not see it.
4. Be the best witness you can. Note the time when the person leaves, the clothing and any description you can of the person. Keep any evidence you can protected (notes and where they touched the counter should be covered)
5. Immediately call Security when the suspect has left the area.
6. Do NOT leave your station, chase the crook or conduct any more business from that station.



If you want to talk more about these issues, contact Chief of Security Lance McKinney or Surveillance Manager James Owen. We'd be happy to clear up an ideas or thoughts.

Lastly, if any of these things ever happen at work, DO NOT talk to any media that shows up. Upper Management will handle that after we make sure that employees and guests are taken care of first.