



MassCOSH

Press Statement

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The shooting of the owner of D & D Convenience Store in Dorchester on Tuesday night was a tragedy that occurs far too often, said the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health (MassCOSH) in a statement released today. With offices just a few blocks away from the shooting and in response to similar incidents, MassCOSH recently launched a workplace violence training program for small employers and young workers, who often are employed at retail stores. These trainings are designed to help employers think about the layout of their workplace, create policies and procedures in the case of violence, and train their employees to minimize the risk of crime and violence.

According to United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), approximately two million American workers are victims of workplace violence each year. Small retail businesses, many of them independently owned, experience the greatest risk for robbery and homicide. In particular, late-night retailers such as liquor stores, convenience stores and gas stations often are at the highest risk because many are frequently run by a lone worker.

“Working with residents, police and our Main Streets organizations, it is important that we come together with our small business owners and employees to make sure they are able to implement crime prevention measures that will deter, detect, and reduce crime in our neighborhoods,” said MassCOSH Teens Lead @ Work Youth Coordinator and Workplace Violence Training Coordinator Colleen Armstrong

MassCOSH’s Workplace Violence Training recommends business owners:

- Provide safety education for employees so they know what conduct employees should avoid, such as chasing shoplifters;
- Include modifications to their store’s physical environment, such as avoiding signage and shelving that blocks a worker’s view of the windows;

- Install a drop safe to limit the amount of money on hand; and
- Use bullet-proof enclosures to protect workers from potential assailants

To learn more about MassCOSH's violence prevention training, call (617) 825-7233 or email info@masscosh.org