



BEST PRACTICES FOR CANNABIS BUSINESS SAFETY

Presented by:
The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office
Investigations Bureau and Crime Prevention Unit



This workshop is designed to reduce crime in and around businesses, provide a safe work environment for employees, customers and employers, and increase communication and collaboration between law enforcement, cannabis businesses, and the community.



Our Goals

The goal of this workshop is to:

- ▶ Improve the relationship between the Sheriff's Office and its business constituents
- ▶ Reduce crime occurring within and surrounding a business
- ▶ Empower a business to resolve issues with support of the Sheriff's Office
- ▶ Reduce premises liability
- ▶ Ensure community safety



Benefits to Business Owners

The anticipated benefits:

- ▶ Improved safety and security to business owners and managers, employees, customers, the surrounding community and law enforcement
- ▶ Increased permit volume- legal participation is good for the industry
- ▶ Crime Prevention materials, including business safety information and decals



Benefits to Law Enforcement

Law Enforcement Benefits:

- ▶ Drop in calls for service and violent crimes
- ▶ Open line of communication
- ▶ Teaches managers and employees how to work with L/E to keep crime out of their business
- ▶ Improved quality of life for the community



Minimum Security Standards

The overall purpose of the minimum standards for crime prevention is to discourage potential crime.

Businesses are asked to comply with measures to reduce their chances of being robbed or a target of other crimes.

- Training
- Cash Management
- Lighting
- Visibility
- Access Control
- General Appearance
- Signage
- Alarm Systems
- Security Cameras
- Hired Security
- Communication



Training and Behavior

Well-managed, well-controlled businesses significantly reduce their vulnerability to robbery and other violent crime. Training is the key to crime prevention and employee survival.

Training goals should encourage the following:

- ▶ Maintain a clean and well organized business, inside and out
- ▶ Maintain employee personal appearance to professional business standards
- ▶ Control the amount of cash in building by making frequent cash drops into a safe
- ▶ Prevent robbery and other forms of crime by being alert
- ▶ Know what actions to take to survive robbery and other violent crimes
- ▶ Know what to do following a robbery and other violent crimes



Cash Management

Controlling the amount of available cash is critical to lowering the risk of robbery. Word spreads quickly among the criminal community when a business can be counted on to have a plentiful supply of available cash.

- ▶ Limiting cash can only be accomplished by having a drop or depository safe. The following list of “safe practices” will help guide you in the selection, installation and placement of a suitable depository safe:
 - ▶ Select a safe that is large enough to handle your cash deposit needs.
 - ▶ Bolt the safe securely to the ground, regardless of its weight. Bolts should run through the bottom of the safe where they will not be accessible.
 - ▶ Place a sign on the safe that clearly states “Employee Cannot Open Safe.” The safe and sign should be visible.
 - ▶ Select a drop safe that has an electronic time delay mechanism.
 - ▶ Select a double key entry lock.



Lighting and Visibility

Proper lighting should be maintained both inside and outside your business. Criminals do not want to be seen. Therefore, interior and exterior lighting that maximizes this opportunity can deter a criminal.

- ▶ All lighting fixtures must be carefully maintained
- ▶ Be aware of trees and other foliage that may block light

▶ Interior and Exterior Lighting Measures

Interior

- Light fixtures are not broken
- Light bulbs are not missing
- Brightness of the lighting is appropriate for the business environment

Exterior

- Light fixtures are not broken
- Light bulbs are not missing
- Parking lot is well-lit



Access Control

Escape is one of the most important factors for criminals considering a potential target. Their evaluation will include selection of alternate escape paths from the business to the car, the escape route after reaching the car, and the amount of time it takes to reach the car from the cash or other product.

- ▶ Keep doors locked at all times
- ▶ Door entry chimes can be used to alert employees to persons entering the business
- ▶ Limit the number of entry points onto your property or into your business to the fewest number possible.
- ▶ Blocking or altering exterior escape routes can include the following measures:
 - ▶ Fences or gates between the business and adjacent buildings
 - ▶ Bollards, fences, or chains to block parking lot entrances and exits
 - ▶ Low fences that extend the height of existing walls



General Appearance

- ▶ The business should be clean and well maintained with no broken windows, graffiti, trash or other obvious signs of deterioration.
- ▶ A clean, well-maintained business sends a clear message that it is a well-managed and well-controlled business that cares about its employees and merchandise.
- ▶ Potential robbers, for example, may assume that a poorly maintained business is probably sloppy regarding their cash control procedures.
- ▶ Broken Window Theory



Signage

The presence of decals/signs will send a message to potential criminals that this location is prepared and may not be an ideal target.

- ▶ Signs or decals might include:
 - ▶ Height marker along the frame of the doorway.
 - ▶ “MAKE THAT DROP” - Reminds employees to drop excess money and large bills
 - ▶ “EMPLOYEES CANNOT OPEN THE SAFE” (Place on the actual safe.)
 - ▶ “FOR EVERYONES SAFETY WE KEEP MINIMAL CASH ON HAND AT ALL TIMES - EMPLOYEES CANNOT OPEN SAFE” Displayed where it can be seen upon entry to the business.
 - ▶ Decals and yard signs from alarm company



Alarm Systems

▶ **Visual Deterrent**

Cameras and signs notifying visitors of the presence of security systems provide comfort to visitors and deter criminals from intruding.

▶ **Ever Present**

A security system never calls in sick and never needs a bathroom break. Your system can notify the police or fire department of a problem in real-time.

▶ **It's a Legal Shield**

A security system gives you recorded evidence a crime has taken place. An alarm can provide documentation of when doors, windows were opened and when movement took place.

▶ **Save Money**

Often, the installing a security system can result in lowered premiums and deductibles.

* **DON'T SKIMP!** Pay a little more for a professionally installed system.



Security Cameras

▶ **Reduction of Theft/Break-ins**

A **properly installed** video surveillance system can provide the video footage needed for the authorities to make an apprehension.

▶ **Increase in Employee Productivity**

When the boss is watching, the staff is working. Business security cameras can sometimes be used to settle disputes, reduce workplace violence, and resolve conflicts between employees, as well as reduce internal theft.

▶ **Video Documentation**

Some businesses require video documentation of events that occur on site as part of the regulated business or for compliance purposes. In cases in which a customer or employee claims a slip and fall or another job-related injury, video footage can be very helpful in determining the actual cause. Insurance companies utilize this footage to reduce casualty claims.



Hired Security

Benefits of Professional Security Guard Services:

- ▶ Knowing that a security guard is on hand provides a sense of security to employees. People who work in what can be considered to be high risk industry are less likely to work in a productive manner if they feel that their lives or safety is at risk.
- ▶ They are trained to be on the lookout for any form of suspicious activity or behavior. They can be an instant deterrent to any form of crime and ensures that the criminals think twice about their actions.
- ▶ Different degrees of training affects how your security guards handle any crime that may occur. You as the business owner must decide the levels of security that you would like as well as what course of action should be in place in the event that something may happen.
- ▶ Having professional security guard services ensures appropriate behavior when confronting any form of criminal activity.



Working Together

Working together and open communication is an important part of crime prevention.

- ▶ Be the best witness you can be
- ▶ Report ALL crime and suspicious activity
- ▶ If a situation does occur (robbery, burglary, theft) PLEASE be truthful
 - ▶ Inaccurate information is unsafe for our responding deputies
 - ▶ Wastes the time of detectives working the case
 - ▶ Takes time and resources away from the community

Questions?

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