

Robbery Prevention Tips for Businesses Participating in the sales of TN Lotto Tickets

This year our state began participating in the lottery system. It is an exciting venture that will hopefully generate money for our children's education here in Tennessee. However, businesses that sell lottery tickets to consumers may be targeted by criminals that intend to commit an act of robbery. Here are some helpful tips that will reduce the likelihood of a business falling victim to this act of violence.

1. Encourage non-cash transactions. Use checks to pay winnings if at all possible. You may even want to make payment by check a policy.
2. Have a drop safe on site to deposit large bills. Deposit large amounts of cash as well, so it is inaccessible to robbers. Post a sign on the front of the business indicating that no more than a certain dollar amount is on hand. (\$100, \$150, etc.)
3. Maintain as little cash on site as possible. Make deposits often.
4. Do not make bank deposits a part of your "routine", and do not make them before opening or after closing. Robbers are aware of the practice of before and after deposits.
5. Watch for suspicious customers. Robbers often shop before they commit their act. If you see someone in the business that is suspicious call the Metropolitan Police at 862-8600. Remember to pay attention to the suspicious person's description.
6. Greet all customers that come in to your business so they know you have seen them. This will deprive them of anonymity.
7. Keep windows and doors clear of signs, displays and other materials. This allows passersby and police to see you from the street.
8. Maintain a quality video surveillance system on site. Make sure the activities of the business are being recorded and advertise that tapes are recorded and stored off site. Cameras that work and show a clear image may deter a robbery.
9. Install convex surveillance mirrors to make blind spots in the store visible.
10. Make sure the parking lot, front of the store, and inside of the business are well lit.
11. Have a panic/robbery alarm on site that is easily accessible to call police in the event of a robbery.
12. Enclose the counter with a booth style room. This limits access to the cash register area. Bullet resistant glass may also be installed to protect employees. Transactions can be conducted through a sliding tray.

What to do if you are robbed

1. Remain calm and do not resist.
2. Comply with the robber's request.
3. Do not attempt to fight or otherwise detain the suspect.
4. Do not argue with the robber.
5. Do not chase or follow the robber once they leave the premises.
6. Call your Metro Police Department.
7. Be able to provide the call taker with information regarding the robber's description, any weapons he or she may have had, direction of travel away from the store, and any vehicle information.

Remember to work with your Metro Police Department by beginning a business watch group in your area to help reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime. To speak to a representative of the Hermitage Precinct Community Affairs Unit call 862-7111 today.