

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE SAFETY

Workplace violence is a growing problem in the United States. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, around 2 million people experience workplace violence annually. Teachers and staff have a relatively high rate of workplace assault; about 75% of public schools have employees who experience one or more violent incidents every year.

Therefore, it's important to identify some steps you can take to prevent workplace violence, be prepared to stop situations that could turn violent, and respond to violent acts safely:

Before:

- ❖ Take threatening behavior and words seriously. Report any threat to your supervisor, even if it may not appear serious at the time.
- ❖ Be alert for signs of potential violent behavior from people who:
 - Use intimidation often in their interactions,
 - Are frequently angry and use abusive language,
 - believe others are “out to get them” or blame others for their problems, *and*
 - Talk a lot about weapons.
- ❖ Arrange a danger signal with coworkers to warn of potential violence.

During:

- ❖ Deal with angry people calmly and respectfully. Try to diffuse the tension.
- ❖ Don't argue with or raise your voice to a potentially violent person, and don't respond to threats with a threat.
- ❖ Focus on the problem or behavior, not the person.
- ❖ If a situation starts to get out of hand, call your supervisor, security, or the police.

After:

- ❖ Report any/all violent incidents; don't cover up for someone you know.

After Hours:

- ❖ Be especially careful when working late or working alone, and when you're in elevators, restrooms, or other isolated places.
- ❖ Park your car in a well-lit area, check it before unlocking, and lock it as soon as you are inside.
- ❖ Take care when walking to and from work. Go into a public place like a store if you feel threatened.



Helping to keep our member's employees safe! This Safety Spotlight brought to you by: