

Clerk Shot in Robbery of Family Gas Station

INCIDENT FACTS

REPORT #: 71-250-2024s

REPORT DATE: February 5, 2024

INCIDENT DATE: May 3, 2023

WORKER: 30 years old

INDUSTRY: Gasoline Stations with
Convenience Stores

OCCUPATION: Gas Station Clerk

SCENE: Gas station convenience store

EVENT TYPE: Homicide / Armed Robbery



A 30-year-old gas station clerk was shot in a robbery. He worked for his aunt and uncle, who owned the gas station for three years. The clerk moved to the United States the previous year to learn how to run his own business. His aunt and uncle provided him room, board, and transportation.

The gas station was in a rural area by an interstate highway. It was open daily from 8 am to 8 pm. On the day of the incident, the clerk was working with his uncle. At 4 pm, his uncle left to run some errands. Soon after returning, he was called to leave again, so he planned to come back later to drive the clerk home. The clerk was now alone to serve customers, close up, and prepare for the next day. He also had access to the store's safe where the cash till was placed at closing time. He worked alone several times before when his uncle left to get supplies.

The clerk was restocking shelves when, around 8:45 pm, two men wearing masks and gloves entered the front door. One had a long gun with an extended magazine, and the other had a bag and flex cuffs. The man with the gun aimed it at the clerk, who was walking toward the cash register. The clerk turned his back to the gunman and both began to struggle over the gun.

The other man joined the struggle before the assailants fled in a pick-up truck. A passerby saw the men fleeing and called 911. First responders found the clerk dead from a single shotgun wound to the chest. Interior and exterior surveillance cameras recorded the incident. Police caught both assailants and a third accomplice two hours away the next morning.

Investigators found:

- The employer did not have an accident prevention program (APP) or separate workplace violence prevention program policies or training.
- The employer discussed robbery scenarios with the clerk and told him not to resist robbers.
- The store had never been previously robbed.



Photo 1. Gas station where clerk was shot.



Photo 2. Closer view of gas station convenience store.



Photo 3. Front door where robbers entered store.

Requirements

- You must provide your employees a workplace free from recognized hazards that are causing, or are likely to cause, serious injury or death. See [WAC 296-800-11005](#)

Recommendations

- Develop a written APP that has a workplace violence prevention program with store-specific standard operating procedure (SOP) policies for emergencies and robberies, initial and refresher worker training, and program assessment and enhancement requirements. .
- Conduct a store security analysis to identify hazards, conditions, operations, and situations that could lead to violence. If possible, hire a certified retail security consultant to assess risks.

Recommendations

- Follow OSHA's recommendations for workplace violence prevention programs in late-night retail establishments (see link below). Avoid working alone and improve store layout, access, lighting, video surveillance, cash limit signage, cash control methods, and incident tracking.

Resources

[Recommendations for Workplace Violence Prevention Programs in Late-Night Retail Establishments.](#)

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

This narrative was developed to alert employers and workers of a tragic incident in Washington State and is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.

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