



MICHAEL R. PENCE, GOVERNOR
Rick J. Ruble, Commissioner

402 West Washington Street, Room W195
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2751

Phone: (317) 232-2655
Fax: (317) 233-3790

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Chetrice Mosley
Phone: (317) 232-2379
E-mail: media@dol.in.gov

Keep Employees Safe on Black Friday

INDIANAPOLIS (Nov. 25, 2013) – “Black Friday,” November 29 this year, remains the busiest shopping day of the year. With that in mind, Indiana retailers are reminded to take precautions to ensure employee and customer safety during Black Friday sales events as well as on other major shopping days this holiday season.

“The Indiana Department of Labor encourages all retailers to take appropriate measures to ensure a safe holiday shopping season,” said Commissioner Rick Ruble. “The department recommends retail employers adequately prepare by using crowd management planning well in advance of events that are likely to draw large groups of people.”

Critical components of crowd management include:

- Providing employee training on crowd management
- Pre-event setup, including line markers or barricades if needed
- The ability to immediately and adequately address any emergency situations that arise, including having Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) available

In years past, workers and shoppers have been hurt and even killed as a result of inadequate crowd management preparation. To assist retail employers in their efforts to keep their employees and customers safe during large retail sales events, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provides important safety tips, including:

- Using trained security or police for crowd control
- Using signage to inform customers of main door locations and opening times
- Using raffles, armbands or tickets for hot items

The complete OSHA crowd control fact sheet is available online at www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data/General_Facts/Crowd_Control.html.

About the Indiana Department of Labor:

The mission of the Indiana Department of Labor is to advance the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace. In order to make significant strides, we emphasize both enforcement and compliance assistance by employers. www.in.gov/dol.

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