

## Following a Robbery

**Call** 9-1-1 immediately. Do not hang up the phone until you are told to do so by the 9-1-1 telecommunicator.

**Lock** all doors and ask all witnesses to remain until the officer arrives.



**Write** down descriptions of the robbers and other pertinent information as soon as possible.

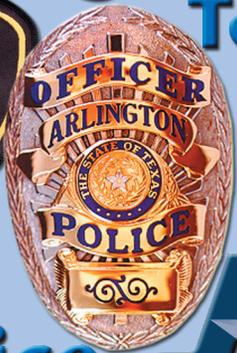
**Protect** the scene of the crime. Do not touch anything.

**Preserve** any items the robbers touched, and any note used.

**Do not** discuss details of the robbery with anyone until after speaking to the police officers.

**Do not try to be a hero. Take no action that would jeopardize your own or someone else's safety.**

**Arlington Texas**



**Police Department**

## Physical Descriptors

Race

Sex

Age

Eye Color

Hair Color/  
Length

Height

Weight

Scars/  
Marks/  
Tattoos

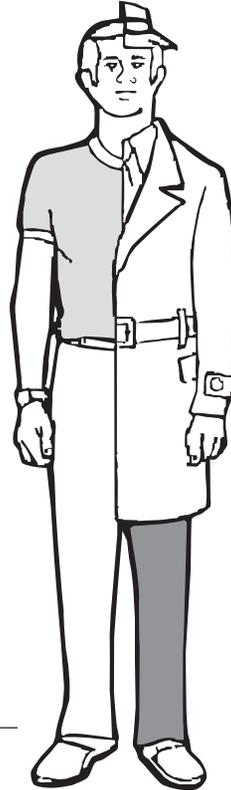
### Weapons

Knife\_\_ Club\_\_  
Mace\_\_ Revolver\_\_

Handgun\_\_

Shotgun\_\_

Rifle\_\_



Speech/  
Accent/Slang

Hat

Glasses

Jacket

Shirt

Pants

Shoes

Rt/Lft Handed

Weapon Type

### Vehicle

\_\_Color \_\_Year

\_\_Make \_\_Model

\_\_Body Style

\_\_Dents/Stickers

The suggestions contained in this brochure can create obstacles for the armed robber which he'd rather not face.

When you increase his risk of getting caught, the robber will usually look elsewhere for an easier target.

There are many other crime prevention precautions which you can take to protect your home, property, business and family. For further information, contact:

**Arlington Police Department  
Crime Prevention Unit  
817-459-5725**



**Commercial  
Robbery  
Prevention**



Arlington Police Department  
Community Services Division  
Crime Prevention Unit  
P.O. Box 1065  
Arlington, TX  
76004-1065

817-459-5725  
www.arlingtonpd.org



# Armed Robbery:

## Awareness and Prevention

Anyone who's ever been trapped in an armed robbery situation knows the threat of violence creates fear, tension, and panic which can easily result in tragedy. The display of force, the nervousness of the robber, and foolish acts of heroism by victims are all conditions which can trigger a regrettable incident.

While we cannot prescribe a potion or cure-all to rid your business of armed robbers, there are ways to discourage them and to minimize the chances of violence through sound business practices and proper employee training. This brochure outlines basic armed robbery deterrents which can be practiced as a minimum line of defense. For a more detailed survey of your business' vulnerabilities and needs, contact the Arlington Police Crime Prevention Unit.

### Create Physical Deterrents

**Ensure** that visibility into your business from the outside is unobstructed by window signs and displays.

**Secure** any door not used by customers during business hours.

**Use** low display counters to keep lines of sight open throughout the store.

**Set** up a central cashier area from which all sections of the store can be viewed.

**Install** barriers to prevent unauthorized entrance into the teller and cashier areas.

**Install** telephones so that they can be answered without turning your back on the store and customers. Post 9-1-1 stickers beside each phone.

**Consider** installing surveillance cameras, convex mirrors, and warning signs as psychological deterrents.

**Consider** installing a special hold-up alarm system. The Arlington Police Department can help you determine the best system for your business.

**Mark** edges of the main doorway with colors or dots at varying heights to make it easier to estimate the height of a robber.

**Have** adequate lighting both inside and outside the store, especially at the front and rear entrances.

**Keep** all doors and windows secured when closed, using quality high security hardware.

### Set up Procedural Deterrents

**Set** out security procedures in writing and instruct each employee in the procedures. Review regularly.

**Do not** open your business to a stranger who seeks admission before or after regular business hours.

**Do not** allow large amounts of cash to accumulate at your place of business, and post notices advertising the fact.

**Vary** times and routes to and from the bank when making deposits. Persons responsible for bank deposits should travel to and from the bank in the company of another person.

**Check** the references of all job applicants.

**Train** employees to alert other employees or the police when they observe suspicious behavior.

**Close out** cash registers and count cash in a private area; large sums of money present a tempting target.

**Watch** out for persons trying to hide on your premises at closing time. Check rest rooms and store-rooms before locking up.

**Arrange** work schedules so that at least two employees are present at opening and closing times.

**Instruct** employees of actions to be taken in the event of an armed robbery.



### Know What to Do

**Remain** calm and be as alert and observant as possible if confronted with an armed robber. Be careful and cooperate.

**Do not** try to be a hero. Take no action that would jeopardize your own or someone else's safety.

**Follow** the robber's directions, but do not volunteer more than he asks for.

**Do not** make any sudden moves. If you must put your hands into your pockets for a key to the cash register, or take any action the robber might misinterpret, explain the action before doing it.

**Place** any notes that the robber may hand you out of sight, and retain as evidence.

**Be** attentive and make as many mental notes as possible which may help in identifying and tracking the robber.

### Remember Details

**Take** a good look at the robbers. Look for special characteristics or mannerisms which will aid you in describing them.

**Try** to determine age, height, weight, and general appearance by comparing the robber to yourself or someone you know.

**Note** any peculiarities such as tattoos, scars, birthmarks, and prominent physical features.

**Note** type, style, and color of clothing.

**Note** type, size, and color of weapon.

**Note** any special jewelry such as class rings or objects with names or initials.

**Try** to get a good look at any vehicles used in get away, and if possible, write down the license number. Observe the direction in which the robbers leave, but do not jeopardize yourself trying to get this information.