



State of Nevada Department of Business & Industry

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Nevada OSHA Offers Tips for Handling 'Black Friday' Crowds

Las Vegas – The day after Thanksgiving, commonly known as 'Black Friday', is one of the busiest shopping days of the holiday season. Crowds of bargain hunters can grow dangerously large and unruly. The Nevada Occupational Health & Safety Section (OSHA) of the Division of Industrial Relations urges retailers to follow federal OSHA's crowd control guidance to prevent injuries or worse.

According to federal OSHA's [Crowd Control Safety Tips Fact Sheet](#), there are a number of ways that retailers can better manage crowds, keeping both patrons and workers safe during heavy shopping times.

- Planning is key. Trained security, police and/or trained safety personnel should be on site. Employees should also be trained, and one employee should be designated to contact emergency services if the need arises.
- Barricades and rope lines should be used to instill order. Employees should be able to easily communicate, such as using radios. Carts and other potential obstacles should be moved away from entrances and parking lots. Safe entrances for disabled customers should be made available.
- Customers waiting in line may become agitated, so keep them informed of what's happening. Use a public address system or bullhorn throughout the event.
- For more tips, go to https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data/General_Facts/Crowd_Control.html.

Workers or shoppers who are concerned about the crowds in a particular store are encouraged to report the situation to Nevada OSHA at (702) 486-9020 or (775) 824-4611.

To learn more about Nevada OSHA, go to <http://dirweb.state.nv.us/OSHA/osha.htm>.

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