



Indiana

Department of Labor

Advancing the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace

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NEWS RELEASE
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Hoosier Retailers Reminded to Plan for Safety, Prepare Crowd Control for Black Friday

INDIANAPOLIS (November 22, 2015) – For many Hoosiers, Black Friday, November 25, marks the start of the 2016 holiday shopping season. The Indiana Department of Labor reminds employers to take the appropriate precautions to ensure worker safety during this historically hectic business day. Black Friday is expected to see large groups of enthusiastic shoppers. This kind of increased traffic can lead to dangerous situations for both workers and customers.

Components of effective crowd management include:

- Pre-event planning and setup, including the use of line markers or barricades to separate crowds and maintain customer traffic flow
- Large, visible signage to inform customers of main door locations or checkout lines
- Employee training on crowd direction and organization
- Emergency situation strategies and procedures that are understood by employees

“The Indiana Department of Labor encourages all retailers to take steps to proactively protect employees on the busiest shopping day of the holiday season,” said Commissioner Rick J. Ruble. “Planning ahead is key, and it’ll be important to not just workers, but also shoppers, that all necessary measures for crowd management are prepared beforehand.”

Inadequate crowd management has led to serious worker injuries and death. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) developed safety guidelines to help employers keep workers and shoppers safe during large retail sales events. OSHA’s crowd management safety guidelines for retailers can be found 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 voluntary compliance by employers. Follow the Indiana Department of Labor on Twitter: [@INDeptofLabor](https://twitter.com/INDeptofLabor) and Like on Facebook: [facebook.com/IndianaDepartmentofLabor](https://www.facebook.com/IndianaDepartmentofLabor).

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