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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Retailers Need to Prioritize Worker Safety on Black Friday *Indiana Department of Labor provides guidance on holiday crowd control*

INDIANAPOLIS (Nov. 19, 2018) – The Indiana Department of Labor is asking retail employers to take appropriate precautions to ensure worker safety during Black Friday and throughout the holidays. Getting workers and staff through the intense shopping season, which can draw tremendous customer traffic, requires forethought on the part of employers particularly for crowd management.

“Retail employees need proper guidance, planning and training from their employers to safely manage the crowds during the busiest shopping day of the year, and throughout the entire season,” said Indiana Department of Labor Commissioner Rick J. Ruble. “The best way to prevent injuries and accidents is to make sure employees are informed and prepared.”

Ruble recommends employers develop precautionary actions that address:

- Pre-event planning and setup, including 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 for all staff members
- Emergency situation strategies and procedures that are understood by all employees, including seasonal and part-time staff

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration developed safety guidelines to help employers protect both workers and shoppers during large sales events. These guidelines can be found at www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_General_Facts/Crowd_Control.html.

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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 at [@INDeptofLabor](https://twitter.com/INDeptofLabor) and Like on Facebook at www.facebook.com/IndianaDepartmentofLabor.