



**SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT
SPECIAL BULLETIN
“Commercial Robberies”
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009**



“COMMERCIAL” ROBBERIES

Local businesses need to be aware of a number of recent commercial robberies in the Spokane area that have **occurred at/near closing time**. The M.O. and suspect descriptions have been similar in each incident. The suspects have had their faces covered (typically with bandanas, masks, or glasses) and some displayed a firearm. It is strongly recommended businesses implement operating procedures that ensure the safety of staff and reduce the opportunity for robbery.

Possible pro-active suggestions include:

- **More than one employee working at all/closing times.**
- **Never prop open doors/entrances and secure all doors when not in use.**
- **Only handle cash when the store is closed and the doors are locked.**
- **Change deposit times and procedures regularly.**
- **Make sure the store is well lit, especially the entrances and cash register.**
- **Greet all customers -- this reduces their anonymity and lets potential robbers know you are paying attention.**
- **Watch for suspicious customers. Do not hesitate to call 911 on ANY suspicious activity.**
- **Put up height tape by entrances to ensure correct height on recorded video.**



Suggestions if robbed include:

- **Remain Calm, Cooperate, Do Not Resist, and Call 911 (first) as soon possible.**
- **Do not try to be a hero. Take no action that would jeopardize your own safety.**
- **Make a mental note of the robber's race, age, height, sex, clothing, complexion, color of hair and eyes, etc. Note anything unusual about the robber, such as scars or tattoos.**
- **Note type, size and color of the weapon. If possible note direction of travel.**
- **Watch where the robber puts his or her hands or whether he or she touches anything. Fingerprints might be left behind.**