



St. Johns County Sheriff's Office

"Taking Care of People"

Workplace Violence

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, workplace violence falls into four categories: Criminal intent, customer/client, worker-on-worker and personal relationship, which overwhelmingly targets women.

Every year, 2 million American workers report having been victims of workplace violence. In 2014, 409 people were fatally injured in work-related attacks, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That's about 16% of the 4,821 workplace deaths that year.

While roadway incidents are the No. 1 cause of death for workers overall, violence is the third leading cause for healthcare workers, and employees in professional and business services like education, law and media, according to *Injury Facts 2016*[®]. Taxi drivers, for example, are more than 20 times more likely to be murdered on the job than other workers, according to OSHA.

Some people commit violence because of revenge, robbery or ideology – with or without a component of mental illness. While there is no way to predict an attack, you can be aware of behaviors in coworkers that might signal future violence:

- Excessive use of alcohol or drugs
- Unexplained absenteeism, change in behavior or decline in job performance
- Depression, withdrawal or suicidal comments
- Resistance to changes at work or persistent complaining about unfair treatment
- Violation of company policies
- Emotional responses to criticism, mood swings
- Paranoia

Most every "place" is somebody's workplace. So whether you are a patron or an employee, it's important to be alert. If you feel unsafe at your workplace, speak with your manager. Don't hesitate to bring attention to your wellbeing.

And you can always call the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office if you feel threatened in any way.