

SAFETY ALERT



From the Occupational Health Surveillance Program, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

18-year-old Brazilian died on the job when a shoplifter stabbed him

In February 2004, tragedy struck when a Brazilian worker was assaulted during a shoplifting incident. The victim, an 18-year-old male, was fatally stabbed during an assault outside of the store. The victim was employed by a local pharmacy where he provided general help. The shoplifter exited the store with stolen items and the store manager went after him. The 18-year-old worker noticed that the shoplifter had stabbed the store manager and went outside to help his boss. While trying to help his boss, the 18-year-old was fatally stabbed by the shoplifter.

Tips to keep yourself safe on the job:

- If you think some part of your job is not safe, talk to your co-workers. You can talk to your boss together.
- Ask your boss for safety training for any machine you use, even if you have used that kind of machine before.
- If you can not understand warning and safety signs at your job, ask your boss to post signs in your language.
- If you are in a union, talk to a union representative.

You have a right to ask for health and safety information and protection. It is illegal for your employer to fire you if you do so!

You have health and safety rights on the job!

All workers have health and safety rights in the workplace: citizens and non-citizens, documented and undocumented workers. Employers have to follow occupational health and safety regulations.

Your employer has to:

- Provide you with a safe workplace that is free of serious recognized hazards.
- Train you how to work safely around dangerous chemicals (that you work with or work near).
- Make sure you have and use safe and properly maintained tools and equipment.
- Make sure all employees are covered under "Workers' Compensation" insurance (Workers' Compensation is a state system that provides medical benefits and money for workers who get hurt on the job).

For more information

Coalition for a better work environment for Brazilians (COBWEB) Tel: (617) 783-8001 ext. 6
Tel: (978) 934-3147

Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health (MassCOSH) helps workers with health and safety problems on the job Tel: 617-825-7233 ext. 10
www.masscosh.org

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) handles complaints of serious hazards Tel: 617-565-9860
www.osha.gov

Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents (DIA) administers Workers' Compensation Tel: 617-727-4900 x470
www.mass.gov/dia

ALWAYS: If you need an interpreter, ask for one as soon as you make the call!