

# SAFETY ALERT



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

## Two Brazilian restaurant cleaners were injured on the job, one fatally, when assaulted by a robber

*In May 2004, tragedy struck when two Brazilian workers were assaulted during a robbery attempt at the restaurant where they worked. One of these workers, a 35-year-old male, was fatally stabbed and the other worker, a 27-year-old male, was injured during the assault. The men, employed by a local restaurant, cleaned the restaurant after hours. The 35-year-old victim noticed his co-worker being assaulted and attempted to help him. During this attempt, robber fatally stabbed him.*

### 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!**