

Draft

**NASeA Guide to Safety of Employees Working at
Gas Stations/ Convenience Stores in the United States.**



Technical Information Compiled by Gas Station/ Convenience Store

Safety and Security Guideline Team

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Published by

Entrepreneur Committee of

Nepalese Association in Southeast America

www.naseaonline.org

Disclaimer: This guideline does not claim to provide all the information needed for the safety and security needed while working in a gas station/ convenience stores. This simply presents some useful tips collected by the experiences of employees/ owners of gas stations. Nepalese Association in Southeast America (NASeA) does not take responsibility of information presented in the draft. Further this draft is not complete and is in progress. The NASeA guideline team (above, their contact info below) seeks your suggestions and comments.

Why this guide?

Many Nepalese currently are working in Gas stations and Convenience stores in the USA. We may not realize the degree of safety issue involved. In 2010, Rabindra Sharma was shot when he was working at a Gas station in Spartanburg, South Carolina. In January of 2012, another Convenience store employee Damodar Pathak was gunned down in Dekalb, Georgia. These are but a few incidents among hundreds when people are shot dead while working in gas stations/ convenience stores. Undoubtedly, they have increasingly become some of the riskiest work place in the United States. There are hundreds of Nepali origin working in the gas stations/ convenience stores in the Southeast America. The purpose of this guide is to provide safety information, precautions and safety measures to be taken to minimize the risk.

Choose a safe place for employment: While looking for jobs in gas stations/ convenience stores, please do consider the safety aspect of the neighborhood, specially the history of criminal incidences.

Worker Compensation: Ask your employer if the store has the worker compensation. It is like health/ life insurance designed for work and work place related injuries.

Buy Life Insurance: Beside the worker compensation, one should also buy the life insurance. The life insurance premium usually costs only a fraction to the coverage it provides. The financial security of the workers family is a must to live here.

Be vigilant and watchful: Remember '911' the emergency number. In the work place always be alert, watch for suspicious activities, and inform your fellow workers if any. At night if you are working alone and suspect any danger, call '911' for police immediately.

Surveillance Camera: This is a must in every convenience store. Check the surveillance camera system if it is in working condition. They are excellent tools in gathering important clues if the store happened to be robbed.

Always work in pair or more: Many gas stations keep only one employee at night time as business is slow. This is a risky situation as robbery tends to occur in such vulnerable situation. Convince your employer to have at least two employees at night.

Do not fight or chase someone with (or without) gun: A criminal with a gun needs only to press the trigger to injure or kill. Thus, in such situation stay calm, be polite and do nothing to urge him to be hostile.

Remember the tension: Remember that the robber is also in tension and do not do any thing to provoke him.

Do not argue on trivial matters: Be polite to costumers. Do not try to irk, annoy or provoke any body.

If you are being robbed, do not fight back: The property of the gas station is insured by insurance companies. The loss to the store is not so significant to risk your life. Matter of fact, many stores have policy for employees not to fight the robbers, and may even be fired for doing so.

Stay inside bullet-proof Cash Counter: Cash Counters in gas stations usually is surrounded by bullet proof glass barrier. Stay inside such bullet proof cash counter. It is a must at night time. If your counter does not have bullet proof glass protection, urge your employer to make one by convincing him/her that it is a worthy investment for the protection of his/her employees and property.

Cash in the register: Do not keep lots of cash in the register. Cash is the main attraction for the robbers. Thus keeping cash minimum in the register inhibits would be robbers.

Evaluate the situation: Make a habit of looking around and evaluating the situation. Keep the sixth sense alert. Be proactive, not reactive.

Be friendly: Be friendly with the regular customers. They do help in your and over all safety.

Think backward: For a minute think like would be robber and see what safety weaknesses of the store can be exploited.

While leaving the store after closing: Be watchful, look around and walk quickly towards your vehicle or to a place of safety. Do not park your vehicle in dark places, always park in well-lit areas.

Evidence: If you are held by a robber, then try to remember the particulars of the robber like height, weight, characteristics, cloth, etc. and also the places the robbers made contacts for potential finger prints collection.

If you need to contact someone who has years of experience working in gas station or who owns gas stations or who had gathered information for this guide, please contact:

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Prepared by the 'Entrepreneur Committee' of Nepalese Association in Southeast America

February 2012