



Article: Business Crime in Rockdale

Business crime has been increasing over the past few years, in particular fraud. With this in mind Council recently held an information seminar hosted by Constable Tina Xanthos, St George Crime Prevention Office for operators of small businesses.

This forum aimed to give accurate knowledge about the types and prevalence of crime affecting the local business community. It also aimed to give owners the skills to assess their own business and knowledge to reduce the risk and opportunities for crime.

Business crime is an issue we need to combat as a group of traders and property owners. A recent survey proved that 49% of all businesses reported business crime in the previous year. The average financial cost of crime against businesses was nearly \$5,000. The effects of business crime are not only financial but also psychological for both operators and employees.

There are several actions businesses can take to minimise the opportunity for business crime. Including

1. Understanding business crime.

Crimes against businesses include:

- Fraud, Burglary
- Shop lifting and Stealing
- Robbery
- Arson
- Malicious damage (such as graffiti, smashed windows etc)

2. Identifying and assessing your business's risks

By taking a closer look at both your local business community and operation you can help determine the likelihood of business crime occurring. By doing so, you can then create crime prevention strategies. For example - if your store layout is cluttered, the likelihood of shoplifting is higher than in a store where the layout is open and visible.

3. Reporting all crimes

By reporting all occurrences to our Local Police Area Command we can help them create a clearer understanding of our area and develop strategies to target these problems.

To report a crime or for more information call:

1. For all emergencies - 24 hours - call 000
2. Your Local Police Command - St George Crime Prevention Officer Constable Tina Xanthos Ph: 8566 47482
3. Police Assistance Line - 24 Hours - 131 444
4. Crime Stoppers - Monday - Friday 7am to 11pm, weekends 8am to 8pm - 1800 333 000

Remember working alone we can only do little however, working together we can put crime out of business.