

## Protecting Assets During Demonstrations and Rallies

While most demonstrations and rallies are peaceful, there is the potential of harm to people and / or property. Use the following basic steps to prevent and mitigate losses.

**Protecting Employees and Customers:** Follow these safety suggestions to protect employees, customers and yourself.

- After learning about demonstration plans and determining how it might impact your business, communicate the information to employees and customers. If closing early, notify your community using social media. When in doubt, over-communicate.
- Avoid the area or stay indoors until it's safe to go out. Before going out, establish where the demonstration has taken place, and, if possible, avoid that area. Use your mobile phone's map so you know where you are at all times, and, if you come across a demonstration, leave the area and find another route to your intended destination.
- If there's need to go to an area which experiences a lot of demonstrations, try not to travel alone. Take someone with you and operate as a team looking out for each other. Keep close and maintain visual contact.
- Avoid places where police or security force action is in progress.

**Protecting Property:** When there is concern gatherings might escalate, the following steps can help to proactively protect property.

- Make certain all doors and windows are securely locked.
- Consider protecting windows and glass doors with plywood or metal panels. If your business is in a hurricane zone, hurricane shutters should be closed and secured. While this is especially important for windows and doors facing public areas where demonstrations are likely to be held, don't forget doors and windows hidden from the public.
- Provide extra lighting at all points of entry into the building.
- Install security cameras and protect them from damage. Post signage to raise awareness of the presence of cameras.
- Hire **licensed** security if they can be utilized without exposure to harm.
- Remove outside objects that could be damaged or used as projectiles.
- Relocate company vehicles to a safe location and shuttle them in.
- Do not post inflammatory or political materials on your property.
- Maintain ongoing positive community relations. Advertise good deeds; goodwill goes a long way to deter violence against your property.

If you have questions or would like more information, contact a member of the Murray Risk Control Team at 717.397.9600.

*This information is advisory and offered as a resource and not intended as a substitute for legal or other professional advice.*



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