



The holiday season is rapidly approaching. While it's the perfect time of year to express admiration for your dedicated employees, the most lasting act of appreciation is guarding your employees' safety.

MONITOR EMPLOYEES' ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AT HOLIDAY PARTIES

While Thanksgiving potlucks and Christmas parties are an excellent way to improve company culture, employees may get too intoxicated, causing situations to escalate more than normal. The Bureau of Labor Statistics's (BLS) most recent data shows that co-workers and work associates were the second biggest cause of workplace homicides in 2017. Additionally, Sexual Harassment in the Workplace: #metoo, Women, Men, and the Gig Economy report states, 21% percent of Americans say they have experienced sexual harassment in the workplace.

BE AWARE OF POSSIBLE RETAIL THEFT

Retailers fall prey to return fraud. According to the National Retail Federation, about 3.5% of all returns are fraudulent, which adds up to \$2.2 billion in losses (and means some of your returned items are likely stolen.) Thieves are also stealing goods directly from stores by showing up for BOPIS, or "buy online, pick up in-store," fraud attempts during the 2018 holiday season retailers saw a 13% increase in BOPIS theft according to ACI Worldwide.

MONITOR YOUR WORKPLACE CHRISTMAS TREE

According to the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 160 fires that started with Christmas trees every year between 2013 and 2017.

INSPECT UNIDENTIFIED PACKAGES THAT ENTER THE BUILDING

The holiday season includes gift-giving, but always be cautious of unidentified packages that enter the building. Don't hesitate to call a security professional for assistance.

To learn more about office safety, contact Fortaris Capital Advisors for a consultation.