

City of Merced
Workplace Violence Prevention Plan

July 1, 2024

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- A. Workplace Violent Incident Log
- B. Workplace Violence Prevention Environmental Hazard Assessment & Control Checklist

Policy

City of Merced is committed to providing a work environment that is free of disruptive, threatening, or violent behavior involving any employee, appointed or elected official, volunteer, contractor, client, and/or visitor. Our policy is to establish, implement, and maintain an effective plan as required by SB 533. The regulation requires us to establish, implement, and maintain, at all times in all our facilities, a workplace violence prevention plan for purposes of protecting employees and other personnel from aggressive and violent behavior at the workplace.

Our Workplace Violence Prevention (WVP) plan is available upon request for examination and copying to our employees, their representatives, and the Chief of Cal/OSHA or his or her designee.

Prohibited Acts

City of Merced will not ignore, condone, or tolerate *threats of violence* or *workplace violence* by any employee, appointed or elected official, volunteer, contractor, client, or visitor.

- *Threats of violence* include both verbal and non-verbal conduct that causes a person to fear for his or her safety because there is a reasonable possibility he or she might be physically injured and that serves no legitimate work-related purpose.
- *Workplace violence* means any act of violence or threat of violence that occurs at the work site. The term workplace violence shall not include lawful acts of self-defense or defense of others. Workplace violence includes the following:
 - The threat or use of physical force against an employee that results in, or has a high likelihood of resulting in, injury, psychological trauma, or stress, regardless of whether the employee sustains an injury
 - An incident involving the threat or use of a firearm or other dangerous weapon, including the use of common objects as weapons, regardless of whether or not the employee sustains an injury

Workplace violence can be categorized into four types:

Type 1: Workplace violence committed by a person who has no legitimate business at the work site - includes violent acts by anyone who enters the workplace with the intent to commit a crime

Type 2: Workplace violence directed at employees by customers, clients, patients, students, inmates, or visitors

Type 3: Workplace violence against an employee by a present or former employee, supervisor, or manager

Type 4: Workplace violence committed in the workplace by someone who does not work there but has or is known to have had a personal relationship with an employee

In addition, City of Merced prohibits all *dangerous weapons* not used for fire suppression, accident and incident response, emergency medical services, the service of law enforcement, or security duties on all City of Merced property. Any employee or appointed or elected official in possession of prohibited dangerous weapons on City of Merced property is in violation of this policy and may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. Any volunteer, contractor, client, or visitor in possession of prohibited dangerous weapons will be banned from the premises. *Dangerous weapons* include any instrument capable of inflicting death or serious bodily injury.

Responsibility and Authority

Workplace Violence Prevention Plan Administrator

The Risk Analyst, or an assigned designee, is the designated WVP Plan Administrator (Administrator) and has the authority and responsibility for developing, implementing, and maintaining this plan and conducting or overseeing any investigations of workplace violence reports. The Risk Analyst will also be able to answer employee questions concerning this plan.

The Risk Analyst, or an assigned designee, shall solicit feedback and input from employees and their authorized representatives in developing and implementing the WVP plan. Active involvement of employees could include, but is not limited to, their participation in identifying, evaluating, and correcting workplace violence hazards; in designing and implementing training; and in reporting and investigating workplace violence incidents.

The Risk Analyst, or an assigned designee, shall coordinate implementation of the workplace violence prevention plan with other employers (ex. contracted security staff and other employers on site), when applicable, to ensure those employers and their employees understand their respective roles as provided in the plan. These other employers and their staff shall be provided with training on City of Merced's WPV plan.

Managers and Supervisors

Responsibilities include:

- Implementing the plan in their work areas;
- Providing input to the Administrator regarding the plan;
- Participating in investigations of workplace violence reports; and
- Answering employee questions concerning this plan.

Employees

Responsibilities include:

- Complying with the plan;
- Maintaining a violence-free work environment;
- Attending all training;
- Following all directives, policies, and procedures; and

- Reporting suspicious persons in the area and alerting the proper authorities when necessary.

Compliance

The Administrator is responsible for ensuring the plan is clearly communicated and understood by all employees. The following techniques are used to ensure all employees understand and comply with the plan:

- Informing all employees of the plan during new employee safety orientation training and ongoing workplace violence prevention training;
- Ensuring *all* employees, including managers, and supervisors receive training on this plan;
- Providing comprehensive workplace violence prevention training to managers and supervisors concerning their roles and responsibilities for plan implementation;
- Evaluating employees to ensure their compliance with the plan;
- Disciplining employees, appointed or elected officials, and volunteers who engage in threats of violence behaviors up to and including dismissal; and
- Ensuring training of this plan is conducted on an annual basis.

Communication and Training

Managers and supervisors are responsible for communicating with employees about workplace violence in a form readily understandable by all employees.

Employees are encouraged to inform their supervisors about any threats of violence or workplace violence. Employees may use the Workplace Violent Incident Log (Appendix A) to assist in their reporting of incidents. No employee will be disciplined for reporting any threats of violence or workplace violence.

After the employee has reported their concerns about any threats of violence or workplace violence to their supervisor, the supervisor will report this information to the Administrator who will investigate the incident. The Administrator will then inform the employee of the results of their investigation and any corrective actions to be taken as part of the City of Merced's responsibility in complying with hazard correction measures outlined in the WVP plan.

Any employee who believes he or she has the potential of violent behavior is encouraged to use City of Merced's confidential Employee Assistance Program:

Employment Risk Management Authority
Main Phone Number: 877-651-3924

Employee training on workplace violence will include:

- This plan;
- Workplace violence risks that employees may encounter in their jobs;
- How to recognize the potential for violence and escalating behavior;
- Strategies to de-escalate behaviors and to avoid physical harm;
- City of Merced alerts, alarms, or systems that are in place to warn of emergencies;
- How to report incidents to law enforcement; and
- Employment Risk Management Authority

Employees assigned to respond to alerts, alarms, or systems that are in place to warn others will receive additional training that includes:

- General and personal safety measures;
- Aggression and violence predicting factors;
- The assault cycle;
- Characteristics of aggressive and violent persons;
- Verbal intervention and de-escalation techniques and physical maneuvers to defuse and prevent violent behavior;
- Strategies to prevent physical harm;
- Appropriate and inappropriate use of restraining techniques and medications as chemical restraints in accordance with Title 22; and
- An opportunity to practice the taught maneuvers and techniques, including a debriefing session.

Training will occur:

- When the plan is first established;
- At time of hire or transfer;
- Annually for employees performing patient contact activities and their supervisors;
- Annually for employees assigned to respond to internal alerts, alarms, or systems;
- When new equipment or work practices are introduced; and
- When a new or previously unrecognized workplace violence hazard has been identified

Employees who receive training in a form other than live will have the opportunity to meet with a person knowledgeable on the plan within one business day of the training for interactive questions to be answered.

Procedures

Responding to Actual or Potential Workplace Violence Emergencies

In the event of an actual or potential workplace violence emergency, Human Resources Manager

will alert employees of the presence, location, and nature of the workplace violence through the following methods:

- ACTIVATION OF ALARM

When any employee becomes aware of an actual or potential workplace violence emergency, they shall notify the Human Resources Manager.

Employees shall implement the run, hide, fight protocols where appropriate. Evacuation routes and sheltering locations will be communicated to affected staff. If employees are not able to evacuate or shelter in place, they are authorized to take all reasonable actions necessary to fight or subdue an active shooter or assailant.

Employees can obtain help by calling 911 to report the incident and request assistance from law enforcement.

Emergencies and Reporting a Crime

For immediate assistance contact emergency services or law enforcement by calling 911. Employees should also notify their supervisor, manager, and the Administrator as soon as possible.

Reporting Workplace Violence Concerns

Employees who witness or experience *threats of violence* or *workplace violence* can report the incident through their chain of command or directly to Human Resources. Employees may report anonymously and without fear of reprisal by submitting the incident in writing through interoffice mail.

Restraining Orders

Employees or other personnel affiliated with the City of Merced who have an active restraining order issued against another person that includes the workplace are encouraged to provide a copy of the restraining order to their supervisor and the Administrator. Supervisors who receive notification of a restraining order that includes the workplace will meet with the Administrator to decide what actions, if any, need to be initiated.

Hazard Assessment

Workplace hazard assessments will include:

- An annual review of the past year's workplace violence incidents; and
- Periodic physical security assessments.

The Workplace Violence Prevention Environmental Hazard Assessment & Control Checklist (Appendix B) can be used to assist with the security assessment. Inspections are performed according to the following schedule:

- Once a year;

- When the plan is implemented;
- When new, previously unidentified workplace violence/security hazards are recognized; and
- When workplace violence injuries or threats of injury occur.

Hazard Correction

Work practice controls will be used to correct unsafe work conditions, practices, or procedures that threaten the security of employees.

Work practice controls are defined as procedures, rules, and staffing that are used to effectively reduce workplace violence hazards. Work practice controls may include, but are not limited to:

- Appropriate staffing levels;
- Provision of dedicated safety personnel (i.e. security guards);
- Employee training on workplace violence prevention methods; and
- Employee training on procedures to follow in the event of a workplace violence incident.

Corrective actions will be implemented in a timely manner based on the severity of the hazard, documented and dated.

Post Incident Response and Investigation

Managers and supervisors will use the Workplace Violent Incident Log (Attachment A) to assist in documenting incidents and investigations.

These procedures will occur following an incident:

- Provide immediate medical care or first aid;
- Identify all employees involved in the incident;
- Offer staff individual trauma counseling resources;
- Conduct a debriefing with all affected staff;
- Determine if corrective measures developed under this plan were effectively implemented; solicit feedback from all personnel involved in the incident as to the cause of this incident and if injuries occurred, how injury could have been prevented; and
- Record the incident in the Workplace Violent Incident Log.

Recordkeeping

- Records of workplace violence hazard identification, evaluation, and correction will be maintained for three years in accordance with the recordkeeping requirements of the

City of Merced's Injury and Illness Prevention Program.

- Training for each employee, including the employee's name, training dates, type of training, and training provider will be maintained for a minimum of three years.
- Records of violent incidents (Workplace Violent Incident Log) will be maintained a minimum of five years at 678 W. 18th St., Merced, CA in the Human Resources Department.

Annual Review

City of Merced's Workplace Violence Prevention Plan will be reviewed annually and updated as needed considering the following criteria:

- Staffing;
- Sufficiency of security systems;
- Job, equipment, and facility design and risks;
- Modifications or additions to tasks and procedures that affect plan implementation;
- Newly identified hazards;
- Prior year incidents;
- Identified deficiencies; and
- Feedback provided by employees and their authorized representatives.

Appendix A

WORKPLACE VIOLENT INCIDENT LOG

This form must be completed for every record of violence in the workplace

Incident ID #*:	Date and Time of Incident:	Department:
Specific Location of Incident:		

** Do not identify employee by name, employee #, or SSI. The Incident ID must not reflect the employee's identity)*

Describe Incident (Include additional pages if needed):

Assailant information:

<input type="checkbox"/> Patient	<input type="checkbox"/> Client	<input type="checkbox"/> Customer
<input type="checkbox"/> Family or Friend of Patient	<input type="checkbox"/> Family or Friend of Client	<input type="checkbox"/> Family or Friend of Customer
<input type="checkbox"/> Partner/Spouse of Victim	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Relative of Victim	<input type="checkbox"/> Co-Worker/Supervisor/Manager
<input type="checkbox"/> Former Partner/Spouse of Victim	<input type="checkbox"/> Animal	<input type="checkbox"/> Person In Custody
<input type="checkbox"/> Robber/Burglar	<input type="checkbox"/> Passenger	<input type="checkbox"/> Stranger
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

Circumstances at time of incident:

<input type="checkbox"/> Employee Performing Normal Duties	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/> Employee Rushed
<input type="checkbox"/> Employee Isolated or Alone	<input type="checkbox"/> High Crime Area	<input type="checkbox"/> Low Staffing Level
<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to Get Help or Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Working in a Community Setting	<input type="checkbox"/> Unfamiliar or New Location
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		

Location of Incident:

<input type="checkbox"/> Patient or Client Room	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency or Urgent Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Hallway
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiting Room	<input type="checkbox"/> Restroom or Bathroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Parking Lot or Outside Building
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Breakroom	<input type="checkbox"/> Cafeteria
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		

Type of Incident (check as many apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Robbery	<input type="checkbox"/> Grabbed	<input type="checkbox"/> Pushed
<input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Threat or Harassment	<input type="checkbox"/> Kicked	<input type="checkbox"/> Scratched
<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Threat, Harassment, or Assault	<input type="checkbox"/> Hit with an Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitten
<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Attack	<input type="checkbox"/> Shot (or Attempted)	<input type="checkbox"/> Slapped
<input type="checkbox"/> Threat of Physical Force	<input type="checkbox"/> Bomb Threat	<input type="checkbox"/> Hit with Fist
<input type="checkbox"/> Threat of Use of Weapon or Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism (of Victim's Property)	<input type="checkbox"/> Knifed (or Attempted)
<input type="checkbox"/> Assault With A Weapon or Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism (of Employer's Property)	<input type="checkbox"/> Arson
<input type="checkbox"/> Robbery	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

Consequences of incident:

Medical care provided? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Law enforcement called? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Security contacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Did anyone provide assistance to conclude the event? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Days lost from work (if any) _____
Actions taken by employer to protect employees from a continuing threat? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

Completed by:

Name:	Title:	Date:
Telephone:	Email:	
Signature:	Telephone:	

Appendix B

**WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION
ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD ASSESSMENT & CONTROL CHECKLIST**

Assessed by: Maggie Lemos	Title: Risk Analyst
Location(s) Assessed: City Hall 678 W. 18th St.	

This checklist is designed to evaluate the workplace and job tasks to help identify situations that may place employees at risk of workplace violence.

Step 1: Identify risk factors that may increase [City of Merced's](#) vulnerability to workplace violence events

Step 2: Conduct a workplace assessment to identify physical and process vulnerabilities

Step 3: Develop a corrective action plan with measurable goals and target dates

STEP 1: IDENTIFY RISK FACTORS

Yes	No	Risk Factors	Comments:
		Does staff have contact with the public?	
		Does staff exchange money with the public?	
		Does staff work alone?	
		Is the workplace often understaffed?	
		Is the workplace located in an area with a high crime rate?	
		Does staff enter areas with high crime rates?	
		Does staff have mobile workplaces?	
		Does staff perform public safety functions that might put them in conflict with others?	
		Does staff perform duties that may upset people?	
		Does staff work with people known or suspected to have a history of violence?	
		Do any employees have a history of threats of violence?	

STEP 2: CONDUCT ASSESSMENT

Building Interior

Yes	No	Building Interior	Comments:
		Are employee ID badges required?	
		Are employees notified of past workplace violence events?	
		Are trained security personnel or staff accessible to employees?	
		Are bullet resistant windows or similar barriers used when money is exchanged with the public?	
		Are areas where money is exchanged visible to others?	
		Is a limited amount of cash kept on hand with appropriate signage?	
		Could someone hear an employee who called for help?	
		Do employees have a clear line of sight of visitors in waiting areas?	
		Do areas used for client or visitor interviews allow co-employees to observe problems?	
		Are waiting and work areas free of objects that could be used as weapons?	
		Is furniture in waiting and work areas arranged to prevent employee entrapment?	
		Are clients and visitors clearly informed how to use the department services so they will not become frustrated?	
		Are private, locked restrooms available for employees?	
		Do employees have a secure place to store personal belonging?	

Building Exterior

Yes	No	Building Exterior	Comments:
		Do employees feel safe walking to and from the workplace?	
		Are the entrances to the building clearly visible from the street?	
		Is the area surrounding the building free of bushes or other hiding places?	
		Are security personnel provided outside the building?	
		Is video surveillance provided outside the building?	
		Is there enough lighting to see clearly?	
		Are all exterior walkways visible to security personnel?	

Parking Area

Yes	No	Parking Area	Comments:
		Is there a nearby parking lot reserved for staff?	
		Is the parking lot attended and secure?	
		Is the parking lot free of blind spots and landscape trimmed to prevent hiding places?	
		Is there enough lighting to see clearly?	
		Are security escorts available?	

Security Measures

Yes	No	Security Measures	Comments:
		Is there a response plan for workplace violence emergencies?	
		Are there physical barriers? (between staff and clients)	
		Are there security cameras?	
		Are there panic buttons?	
		Are there alarm systems?	
		Are there metal detectors?	
		Are there X-ray machines?	
		Do doors lock?	
		Does internal telephone system activate emergency assistance?	
		Are telephones with an outside line programmed for 911?	
		Are there two-way radios, pagers, or cell phones?	
		Are there security mirrors?	
		Is there a secured entry?	
		Are there personal alarm devices?	
		Are there "drop safes" to limit available cash?	
		Are pharmaceuticals secured?	
		Is there a system to alert staff of the presence, location, and nature of a security threat?	
		Is there a system in place for testing security measures?	

