



## **EARLY MORNING ROBBERIES**

Over the last couple of years BancInsure has paid four large claims due to early morning robberies. The most recent involved the robbery of a branch of a bank located in a metropolitan area. The first employee arrived around 7:00 A.M. As she was unlocking the door, a vehicle drove-up and a man dressed in black got out brandishing a weapon. The vehicle left the premises. He demanded that she let him in with her. She complied. As soon as he entered the branch he donned a ski mask and instructed her to deactivate all the alarms. She deactivated the alarms as instructed. Apparently, the driver of the vehicle was positioned to watch for the subsequent arrival of other branch employees and would warn the robber inside of their arrival by two-way radio. As each employee arrived he or she was ordered to obtain any cash under his or her control and give it to the robber. The employees would be hand cuffed placed in the branch's lunchroom. One employee was "cuffed" with real handcuffs and the rest with make shift wire handcuffs. While the employees were not able to activate the alarms and trigger the robbery camera , the surveillance video camera did capture images that may be useful in arresting and convicting at the robber that was inside the branch.

The robber began by inquiring about entry into safe deposit boxes and with the forced assistance of the first arriving bank employee attempted to gain entry into a specific rented safe deposit box, but was unable to do so. He was able to gain entry, again with the forced assistance of a bank employee, to an unrented safe deposit box that was empty.

The entire episode lasted nearly two hours. The branch employees noted that the robbers were becoming increasing nervous as the opening time of 9:00 A.M. drew near. Apparently, the robber was delaying his departure because the vault teller was the last employee to arrive. The robber finally left approximately 8:50 A.M. when the vehicle returned to pick-up him up. One of the employees was able to get a description of the vehicle as it left.

The branch had a little over \$300,000 on hand when the robbery occurred. This was a normal amount of cash. The robbers got away with approximately \$229,000. BancInsure paid the loss after the application of the deductible.

The four early morning robbery claims that BancInsure has paid are similar in several respects. First, all appear to have been perpetrated by "professionals" that had carefully planned the robbery. Secondly, the first arriving employee suddenly is faced with an armed individual demanding entrance to the bank or branch. Thirdly, three of the robberies occurred at branches.

There are many security measures to be considered concerning morning routines. The following list is not inclusive, but is offered for your consideration.

- Review the bank's formal security program to ensure that it is current and comprehensive, including new locations, etc.
- Review the security procedures to ensure that the procedures are effective and are followed consistently, including the morning "all clear" signal to be given by the first arriving employee.
- Test alarm systems on a regular basis.
- Inspect all locations of the bank for security including outside and inside lighting. Also beware of shrubbery, signs and other obstructions that may afford a hiding place for would be robbers.
- Train employees to be especially watchful when arriving for work for unfamiliar individuals or vehicles around the building, parking lot, etc.
- Conduct training sessions with employees to remind them of proper conduct during and after a robbery.
- Review currency level to be sure it is held to a minimum in keeping with operational requirements. Also ensure that "bait money" is included in cash supplies and is properly recorded.
- Consider hiring professional security guards or request local law enforcement to be present before and immediately after opening.
- Review the bank's Financial Institution Bond coverage to determine if the coverage is appropriate. Your BancInsure marketing representative will be glad to assist you.

We trust that these comments have been helpful.

BancInsure has become a leading writer of Financial Institution Bonds in the United States by providing a sound, stable market, excellent service and fair claims treatment. If you would like to learn more about BancInsure's Financial Institution Bond or other coverages, please contact your BancInsure marketing representative.