

FATALGRAM 12-01

Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development
Division of Labor & Safety Standards
Occupational Safety & Health



Date of incident: April 20, 2012

Industry: Automotive Repair

Location: R & R Garage, 514 West Fireweed Lane, Anchorage, AK 99503

Summary: On 04/18/2012, Michael Curry, Service Manager, was in the process of closing the business for the evening when an unknown armed man entered the front office shortly before 6:00 p.m. During the course of the robbery the manager was fatally shot.

Description of Incident: The victim was the service manager for the R & R Garage. It was his responsibility to remove all of the proceeds from sales for the day, place them into an envelope and secure the monies in the shop's safe through a drop slot. The service manager had been given the combination to the safe at some point but rarely opened the safe. After depositing the day's funds into the safe, he continued to lock up the building, securing it for the evening

No one witnessed the shooting. It appears that the victim was first robbed of the contents of the day till. He was then forced at gun point to try to open the safe. The safe had not been opened and was still secured when the Anchorage Police arrived on scene. The police theory is that the robber was scared or frustrated when the safe was not opened and then he simply shot the service manager. One additional employee was shot as the robber fled the scene.

Alaska Occupational Safety and Health investigated the incident. Based on the investigation, it was determined that the victim was qualified to perform these duties without supervision by the owner. There had been no instances of disgruntled customers complaining about poor craftsmanship or making threats. There were no recently terminated employees. There had been no previous robberies of this business and no known robberies in that general neighborhood. The Anchorage Police Department is conducting a criminal investigation.

Accident Prevention Recommendations:

- Ensure that employees are trained and qualified to recognize and respond to physical threats.
- Ensure that any surveillance equipment is operational.
- Develop and implement procedures for workers to use in case of a robbery – such as calling the police or triggering an alarm.
- Review procedures for handling cash and deposits.