

## Avoiding the Headline You Never Want to See



*The North Carolina based National Safe Workplace Institute calculated the average cost to employers of a single episode of workplace violence can amount to \$250,000 in lost work time and legal expenses.*

According to the U.S. Department of Labor statistics:

- Assaults and violent acts accounted for 15% of the workplace fatalities in 2007. This equals 839 fatalities nationwide.
- During 2007 in South Carolina, of the 114 recorded job fatalities, 25 were the result of assaults and violent acts.

Workplace violence can come from inside or outside of an organization. Workers may commit violent acts when they feel that management will not otherwise hear their concerns. Domestic problems are becoming more prevalent and can lead to workplace violence. Most acts of violence follow threats or other recognizable signs. All threats and other bizarre behaviors should be quickly assessed for potential violence. ***The primary goal of an Assessment should always be to protect people and property.*** If unsure of which steps to take, it is always prudent to decide which course will most likely protect people and property.

First Sun EAP has a team of highly trained Certified Employee Assistance Professionals who can help assess threats and warning signs of impending violence with the best response to protect people and property. They are also experienced in responding to critical events. Whether it is a robbery, an accident (on or off-site), a fatality, or a threat of violence, our staff is ready to assist you in preparing for and/or dealing with these traumatic events. Give us a call toll free, 800-968-8143 or in Greater Columbia, 803-376-2668. For more information on this topic as well as other risk management situations, please visit our website.