



PATIENT FOCUSED CERTIFICATION



a project of Americans for Safe Access Foundation

ROBBERY

PREPAREDNESS

GUIDE



Americans for Safe Access

Advancing Legal Medical Cannabis Therapeutics

Headquarters:

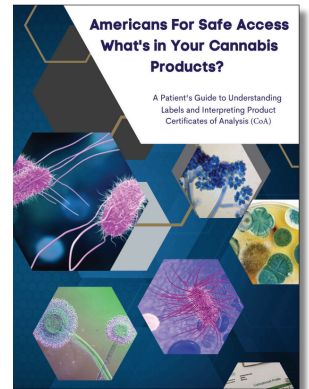
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Americans for Safe Access

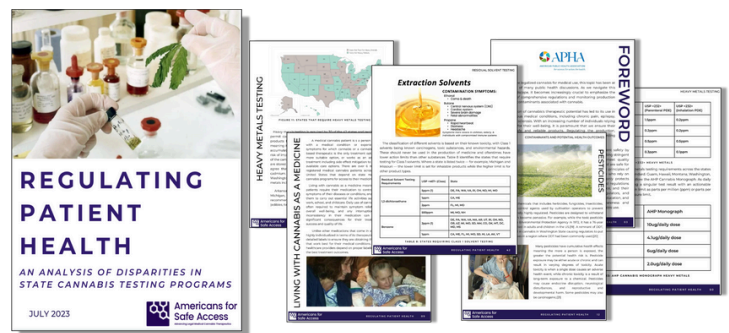
Advancing Legal Medical Cannabis Therapeutics

Established in 2002, Americans for Safe Access (ASA) stands as a prominent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, dedicated to championing the recognition of cannabis as a legitimate medicine. With an extensive network of over 150,000 dedicated supporters spanning all 50 states, ASA proudly holds the distinction of being the largest nationwide membership-based alliance comprised of patients, medical experts, scientists, providers, & concerned citizens, all united by the shared goal of ensuring the safe & legal access to cannabis for therapeutic use & research.



For over 20 years, ASA has been implementing strategies to meet the immediate needs of medical cannabis patients while building a movement to overcome political, social, economic & legal barriers for a national medical cannabis program. ASA's work led to the creation of the medical cannabis market, initially as a way to remove patients & their providers from the battlefield of the war on drugs.

As ASA created a legal framework that moved cannabis production from home-grows into commercial settings, product safety became a top priority in our advocacy. Working with global experts, ASA coordinated the creation of the first globally recognized product safety protocols for cultivating, processing, testing & distributing cannabis for human consumption to guide companies & governments in providing safe products to patients in this new arena.



ASA's campaigns, projects & programs including the Patient Focused Certification (PFC) Program, are designed to support stakeholders as policies and regulations evolve. Through proactive engagement, ASA remains at the forefront of advancing cannabis as an accepted medicine while nurturing an environment of informed progress & responsible innovation.

INTRODUCTION

Americans for Safe Access (ASA) offers a variety of trainings for staff along the cannabis supply chain through our Patient Focused Certification (PFC) program. In light of a series of recent robberies targeting cannabis businesses, we have adapted materials from our PFC Business Operations Training.



No one wants to think about robberies and burglaries, but they are a reality for all businesses, particularly retail operators. Even if your staff or fellow employees are not talking about robberies, they are thinking about them. Most robberies are premeditated and depend on an element of surprise and confrontation. This means that robbers are looking for weaknesses in a business' security that would make the operation a tempting target.



The following has been created to aid businesses in developing plans to stay safe during robberies and adopt policies to help prevent robberies and burglaries. Not all information in this document is applicable to every operation, but the information below is a useful guide to an internal conversation with partners, managers, and staff.

It is common knowledge that cannabis businesses have issues with traditional banks, which already makes them targets, but robbers also look for easy getaway potential, employees working alone, and businesses that are isolated. Robberies happen quickly, so it is important that all staff know what is expected from them during and after an event.

Keeping the customers, staff, and the communities they serve safe should be cannabis operations' top priority. To ensure safety, well-run facilities must adopt a security plan consisting of a set of practices and strategies that work together to maintain safety and community standards. An operation's security plan may involve the following elements:

- Employing trained professional unarmed security personnel.
- Restricting access to the facility to authorized persons.
- Monitoring visitors to prevent loss and diversion.
- Using appropriate security technology and equipment to monitor and secure the facility (video surveillance, panic buttons, safes, locking doors, etc.).
- Maintaining communication with local law enforcement.
- Training staff to prevent and respond to emergencies.
- Educating staff and members as to their rights and responsibilities under the law.
- Participating in neighborhood watch programs.
- Maintaining communication with other businesses in your area including sharing suspicious incidents.



Not all robberies can be prevented, but many can be deterred or least handled in a way that decreases chance of harm to staff and patrons. The following is a list to help you and your staff audit your location, address vulnerabilities and have a plan for staff to carry out in the event of a robbery.



- Never open the facility before or after the regular hours of operation.
- Brief staff on any reports from the neighborhood about suspicious behavior or other incidents.
- Develop and enforce policies for checking all doors and windows before opening and after closing.
- Check all hatches and vents after closing to ensure no one can enter the building.
- Make security cameras visible.
- Ensure employees can always see customers and vendors and address any blind spots with additional security cameras, mirrors, or personnel.
- Create alarm activation policies.
- Implement cash and inventory control policies.
- Frequently change the time(s) at which cash is removed from the facility.
- Implement strict access control policies.
- Create policies for reporting suspicious behavior to staff and/or police.
- Implement a security maintenance plan that ensures routine maintenance will be carried out for all security equipment and includes regular verification that the equipment is in good working order.
- Create an emergency action plan and practice.
- Develop a post-robbery plan.



Keep printed copies of the the robbery plans in common staff areas and include reviews of the plans in regular staff meetings. Incorporate monthly practice drills and create a culture of openness with staff about risks and adverse their questions.

EXAMPLE DURING ROBBERY PLAN

- Remain calm and avoid panic.
- Make it clear that you will cooperate with their demands.
- Cooperate with the robber with the goal of getting them out of the facility as quickly as possible – e.g., open doors and safes, etc.
- Alert other staff that a robbery is happening, if possible.
- Communicate with any customers in the store to cooperate.
- Do not attempt to fight, overpower, or otherwise physically interfere with the robber.
- Press the panic button only if you can do so without being seen.
- Remember important details for the subsequent investigation – e.g., faces, names used by robbers, clothing, type of vehicle, license plates, etc.

EXAMPLE POST ROBBERY PLAN

- Do not chase robbers out of the store or attempt to follow them.
- Call 911.
- Lock the doors.
- Make sure everyone is safe and address any emergency care necessary before paramedics arrive.
- Remain at the facility until law enforcement arrives.
- Do not disturb the crime scene or touch any surfaces that might have fingerprints.
- Alert neighborhood groups and other businesses in the area.
- Create debrief with staff and address any after care that is needed.



Father & son
accused of marijuana
dispensary burglary
in Cushing

Randy Day
(PCSD file photo)

Presten Day
(PCSD file photo)

IN CASE OF BURGLARY:

- Refrain from entering any unsearched area of the facility, until it has been checked and cleared by law enforcement or Security Contractors.
- Notify law enforcement of the incident.
- Notify the Manager immediately.
- Prevent others from entering the facility to preserve any evidence.
- Follow the instructions from law enforcement or security personnel, including instructions about when to enter the facility.
- Alert neighborhood groups and other businesses in the area.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Most retail businesses do cash drops throughout the day, removing excess money from the cash register and securing it in a safe away from where it is collected. Risk can be further managed by making bank deposits on a schedule that varies to ensure that no one will become familiar with the deposit schedule. Cash should always be removed from buildings and transported discreetly (e.g., in a purse or backpack, tucked under a coat, etc.). Operators may also make use of secured armored transport companies to transport cash to banks as well.

Keeping a minimal amount of inventory on hand is also a good precaution. Products not displayed for purchase or being packaged should be stored in a locked safe. The combination should be carefully guarded to prevent unauthorized access. However, there should always be at least one person on site who can open the safe. This will facilitate smooth operations and may be imperative for preventing trouble in the event of an armed robbery.

BE SAFE

WELCOME TO THE PATIENT FOCUSED CERTIFICATION (PFC) PROGRAM!

A groundbreaking initiative developed by Americans for Safe Access (ASA) with the mission of assisting businesses & governments with the responsibility of providing safe & quality cannabis products (including hemp & cannabis-derived) by ensuring that they genuinely possess the strength, composition, purity & identity presented to patients, consumers, & researchers.

A LEGACY OF COLLABORATION & EXPERTISE

In 2008, ASA brought together global experts, including the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) & the American Herbal Pharmacopoeia (AHP), to create product safety recommendations for cannabis intended for human consumption. This collaborative effort combined the expertise of ASA, the nation's largest medical cannabis patient advocacy organization, AHPA, the principal U.S. trade association representing the herbal products industry & AHP, an organization with a history of developing qualitative & therapeutic monographs on Western herbs.



PFC was born from this collaboration, turning recommendations into standards that are transparent, globally recognized & attainable for businesses throughout the cannabis supply chain. PFC Standards incorporate local laws & regulations while drawing from authoritative sources like AHPA's Recommendations for Regulators, AHP's Cannabis Monograph, federal regulations on dietary supplements, food safety, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) & Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

GLOBAL IMPACT: ASA'S COMMITMENT TO SAFE ACCESS

ASA has been instrumental in helping companies & governments worldwide navigate & implement product safety standards for cannabis & hemp products. Our dedication to this mission ensures that patients & consumers everywhere have access to safe, high-quality cannabis products. Today, PFC offers robust education, training & certification to assist companies & regulators in meeting these stringent standards, ensuring the safety & quality of products intended for patients, adult-use consumers & even pets. PFC is not just about safety, it's about providing peace of mind for all who depend on cannabis products for their well-being. Our commitment to this cause is underscored by the recognition of PFC as the first ISO 17065 certifying body for products, processes & services in the cannabis & hemp marketplace.

THE PFC PROGRAM INCLUDES THREE FUNDAMENTAL PILLARS:

Developing Cannabis & Hemp Product Safety Standards: We've set rigorous standards to ensure that every aspect of cannabis and hemp production, processing, testing & distribution aligns with stringent safety & quality protocols.

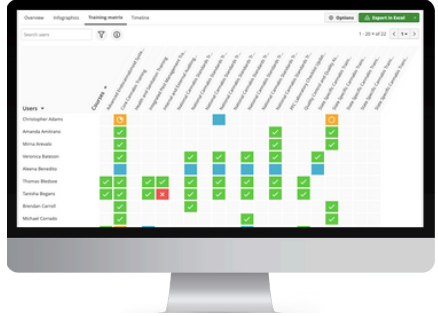
Staff & Management Training: Education is key to implementing & upholding product safety standards. PFC offers comprehensive staff, management & auditor training for every segment of the cannabis/hemp supply chain.

Third-party Certification Program: To validate compliance with our standards, we offer third-party certification. This certification serves as a trusted recognition of a company's commitment to product safety & quality.

BENEFITS OF PFC PROGRAM

**PEACE OF MIND
LEGAL & REGULATORY
COMPLIANCE**

**ACCESS TO VETTED
MEDICINAL CANNABIS
PROFESSIONALS &
CONSULTANTS**



**ACCESS TO
STAFF TRAINING
COMPLIANCE
PORTAL**

**PROOF OF COMMITMENT
TO PRODUCT SAFETY
FOR REGULATORS, B2B
& CONSUMERS**

**ADVOCACY EFFORTS
TOWARDS EXPANDING
& IMPROVING
CANNABIS LAWS
ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

**ASSOCIATION
WITH A KNOWN &
PATIENT-TRUSTED
ORGANIZATION
WITH OVER 2
DECADES OF
EXPERIENCE**

**PROMOTION ON
PFC WEBSITE**



**TRAINING, GUIDANCE
& SUPPORT
IMPLEMENTING
PRODUCT SAFETY
PROTOCOLS**



**PROCEEDS GO TO PFC
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT &
TO SUPPORT AMERICANS FOR
SAFE ACCESS**



**ASA MEMBERSHIP
FOR ALL STAFF**






**UPDATES &
OPPORTUNITIES TO
PARTICIPATE IN ASA
EVENTS SUCH AS
LOBBY DAYS**



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