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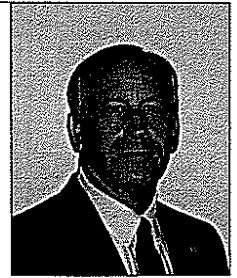
Diamond Detective Agency Inc. may be new to BOMA Utah but they are definitely not new to providing physical security. For over 39 years, Diamond Detective Agency, Inc. has been a industry leader providing innovative, responsive security services tailored to meet the standards and requirements for specific vertical markets. Diamond is family owned and operated with national capabilities and a local presence especially with our office in Salt Lake City since 1991. Diamond offers a full range of services including armed/unarmed security officers, loss prevention personnel, temporary, permanent and replacement services. Diamond continues investing in new software programs and computer based technologies to enhance our level of service and exceeding client expectation! Read about the importance of security to your building in the article attached or page 24 in the Spring Edition of Utah Buildings.

Visit us at: www.diamond-security.com

Contract Security Services

Staying Protected in a Slow Economy

By Wayne Wright



In the present state of the economy and the bleak forecast for the immediate future, facility managers and business owners are having to find ways to cutback expenses and reduce payroll in the face of dwindling revenues, production cutbacks and company closings. Employee lay-offs, salary reductions and reduced business hours are common in every segment of business today. As the economy takes its toll, the pressure and stress on employees increase. Businesses, organizations, warehouses and production facilities will experience a greater amount of risk and accessibility to hazards such as fire, vandalism and theft.

For those reasons, contract security services are an important part of a company or business owners plan to help maintain and protect their assets through these tough economic times. The primary duties and responsibilities of a security officer are to safeguard personnel, property and proprietary information of the client. In addition security officers enforce the client's safety, security rules and regulations.

For a security officer protecting assets may involve controlling potential losses

due fire, theft and vandalism. Fire is the number one cause of loss and destruction to the American industry today. Turn on the morning news on any given day and it's most likely there will be a story of a fire that destroyed a business or warehouse somewhere in the Salt Lake valley during the night. Destruction of even a small portion of an operation or its vital equipment can interrupt production schedules, employee work times and possibly cause the shut down of an already struggling company.

Employee theft is the greatest source of corporate loss that costs the nation an estimated \$67 billion annually. It happens every day, in every type of business and industry. In challenging economic times, lay-offs, reductions in the workforce, reduced paychecks/benefits, cutbacks in work hours, business failures, increased personnel debt, higher medical costs and reduced value of savings/property will all contribute to increased employee theft.

No matter what type of business you are, commercial, residential, financial, medical and industrial you are at risk of theft or some type of vandalism. The risk is especially increases while your

business is closed and even staffed part-time. Vandals are breaking into buildings stealing expensive fixtures, furniture, equipment, inventory and even attached plumbing and building materials. Not to mention, the destruction to the property from the break in with the possibility of exposure to the weather.

Observing and reporting are two of the security officer's most important functions. Contract security officers are trained for specific conditions that might pose a threat to the property or personnel of the client for which they are working. They can be an effective deterrent in the detection of safety/security problems and take immediate actions to reduce the impact from any of these types of incidents. Security officers can be an effective tool in the protection of a company's profits and assets especially during these difficult economic times.

Most often, the cost of security services is minimal in comparison to the cost of repairs due to fire damage, loss of product by internal theft and vandal's destruction of property.

Security services can be an essential part of a company plan to maintain and protect assets/profits in a challenging economy. By hiring the right security vendor with the proper technology and know how these problems can easily be solved resulting in a safer and more secure environment.

Wayne Wright is the Salt Lake City Area Manager for Diamond Security. He was a police officer for 34 years including 24 years as a Police Chief & Director of Public Safety. Wayne is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Southwest Command College. **UB**

