

How Do You PROTECT VALUABLES?

Bank Security Training, FDIC 326

Establish procedures that will protect currency, negotiable instruments and other valuables...

I know you remember the first time you went behind a teller line and saw the cash drawers and discretely situated alarm or "Panic" buttons. I'll bet you remember your first good look at the VAULT too. Imposing wasn't it! That huge, heavy door with those three clocks mounted inside the door itself, and that "Day Gate!" Remember negotiating that. Had to find somebody with a key and they had to go with you to go inside that area of the vault. Then you saw the safe deposit boxes, lot's and lots of small, heavy doors with numbers and two locks on each one. And what about that "INNER SANCTUM" vault. Remember that? It was deep inside the main vault and it there was another locked door you had to go through. Without a doubt you remember that "Inner Sanctum" vault, the BIG MONEY vault...very few people ever get to see that area of a bank you know.

If you think about it, all those things are just physical parts of your bank's effort to meet the FDIC requirement for protecting currency, negotiable instruments and other valuables. The "cerebral part" or the "thinking part" of that process is something that has been tried, improved and tested for as long as there have been banks. The real beauty of the FDIC regulation is that it DOESN'T spell out EXACTLY how you must secure valuables and currency. What it does do is give you the freedom and flexibility to adopt

what works best in your particular circumstance. If you think about it, that's pretty important.

The combined wisdom of accumulated banking knowledge seems to be that two people should be responsible for setting time delays on vaults, entering and exiting the safe deposit areas, and most other functions within the vault areas. No doubt it cuts down on temptation among other things but it is an excellent policy. The point is, in so far as the FDIC regulation is concerned, you have the marvelous flexibility to "establish procedures" that will work best in your situation.

If over time you see that a policy you are following could be improved, discarded, replaced or otherwise modified, you have but to write the new policy into your written security plan, establish the new policy, train your staff members, and live by the new policy.

Who is responsible for opening and closing the vault? When do tellers return cash overages to the vault? How is that accomplished? When is money wrappers changed on "bait money?" Who is allowed in the vault and under what circumstances? As you can see there are literally hundreds of questions you need to address, most of which are already established procedures in your bank. The purpose of this article is help you think through the fact that none of these procedures have to be "set in stone" and inflexible. That ongoing flexibility is the beauty of the FDIC regulation as it pertains to security.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Charles Williams is a graduate of the University of Georgia, a former banker and a successful business owner. Williams was appointed Bank Security Officer in the 1980's with an independently owned Georgia Community Bank. Since those years he has served as an expert on FDIC 326 in banks across the country.

He has provided Bank Security Training, Front line staff Security Training, Hostage Issues, and the physical security of your institution for Community Banker Associations in multiple states including Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Alabama and the Carolinas.

Williams offers a six part Bank Security Training DVD based on the FDIC Regulation.



By Charles M. Williams

Contact Williams by email through:
www.banksecuritytraining.com

Bank Security Training Professional
626 Oak Street • Eastman, GA 31023
800 277-6227
FAX: 478 374-071
www.banksecuritytraining.com