

Ex-Employee Fatally Shoots Former Co-Worker at Empire State Building



Once again, a beautiful summer morning was shattered by workplace violence.

In an incident that happened earlier today, a worker who was laid off from his job at an apparel importer shot and killed a former co-worker outside the Empire State Building in New York City.

The details are still being gathered, but according to the *New York Times*, the worker, who has been identified as Jeffrey Johnson, then turned his gun on two officers, who shot and killed him. Nine bystanders were injured but it doesn't appear that any of their injuries are serious.

Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly said that Johnson had worked at Hazan Imports for six years and was laid off a year ago as part of the company's downsizing. In addition, Johnson and the victim, Steve Ercolino, a company VP, had filed harassment complaints against each other relating to a workplace dispute.

OHS Insider Resources

This tragedy illustrates that workplace violence can happen anywhere and in any kind of industry. So take this opportunity to review your company's workplace violence policies and programs to ensure that they're adequate.

Go the OHS Insider's Workplace Violence Compliance Centre where you'll find, among other things:

- A special report on complying with workplace violence and harassment laws
- A workplace violence policy builder
- Information and tools on conducting a workplace violence risk assessment.

City of Houston, TX