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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Don't Let Tragedy Repeat on Black Friday

INDIANAPOLIS (Nov. 18, 2011) – Indiana retailers are reminded to take precautions to ensure the safety of their employees during their “Black Friday” sales event and other major shopping days this holiday season.

The Indiana Department of Labor and Indiana Retail Council are encouraging all retailers to take appropriate measures to ensure a safe holiday shopping season. In 2008 a New York state retail worker was killed when a crowd of shoppers rushed through a set of doors at the opening of a Black Friday sales event. A subsequent investigation found one reason for the worker’s death was the lack of adequate crowd management measures. While the 2008 worker death has been one of the most extreme cases of a Black Friday sales event gone wrong, each year a number of workers in the retail industry are injured across the country.

The Indiana Department of Labor recommends retail employers adequately prepare by using crowd management planning well in advance of events that are likely to draw large groups of people. Critical components of crowd management include:

- Providing employee training
- Pre-event setup including line markers or barricades if needed
- The ability to immediately and adequately address any emergency situations that arises - including having Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) available.

To assist retail employers in their efforts to keep their employees and customers safe during large retail sales events, OSHA provides important safety tips including:

- Using trained security or police for crowd control
- Using signage to inform customers main door locations and opening times
- Using raffles, armbands or tickets for hot items

The complete OSHA Fact Sheet is available online at:
www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_General_Facts/Crowd_Control.html.

About the Indiana Department of Labor:

The mission of the Indiana Department of Labor is to advance the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace. In order to make significant strides, we emphasize both enforcement and compliance assistance by employers. www.in.gov/dol.

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