



## **STANDING FIRM Myth Busters**

### Common Myths about Partner Violence (PV) and the Workplace

**Myth #1: My company has great security. No one can get in the door without being cleared by security. I don't need to worry about PV-related violence.**

One quarter of PV-related homicides of female employees in U.S. workplaces between 2003 and 2008 occurred outside the building in the parking lot. Violent perpetrators know exactly what their victims' work schedule and workplace situations are and will do what it takes to get to victims there.

**Myth #2: We are a very small company where everyone knows everyone. We don't need to worry about PV-related issues here.**

Over half of PV-related homicides of female employees in the U.S. occur in workplaces with fewer than 20 employees. If employed victims do not know how you will respond to a PV-related issue or threat, they will not tell you what is happening to them. If your other employees don't know how you'll respond, they won't tell you what they know or suspect.

**Myth #3: My employees are mostly male. There's no reason for me to be interested in STANDING FIRM.**

Although men also can be victims of partner violence, statistics show that most perpetrators of partner violence are men. Companies who employ male perpetrators lose money and time as well as accrue potential risk liability. Employed perpetrators may use company resources (phones, cars, e-mail, etc.) and work time to harass and threaten their victims. They often work distracted, so coworkers and customers/patrons are potentially in danger from accidents caused by preoccupied workers. One perpetrator told the story of operating a crane while screaming into his cellphone at his wife—narrowly missing a coworker on the ground. Almost all perpetrators in one study with access to company-provided cellphones admitted to using the phones to check up on their victims multiple times during the work day.