



Human Trafficking Education Training **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human traffickers use force, fraud or coercion to lure victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Traffickers look for people who are susceptible for various reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, lack of a social safety net, natural disasters or political instability.

A University of Texas study conducted in 2016 estimates that there are more than 300,000 victims of human trafficking in Texas, including 79,000 young victims of sex trafficking.

WHY ARE BEER DISTRIBUTORS GETTING INVOLVED IN THIS ISSUE?

Beer distributors service more than 600,000 licensed retail accounts from coast to coast – essentially any place that serves beer. Collectively, they are in and out of thousands of accounts on a daily basis as a routine part of doing business. They also have access to non-public areas where it is more likely that human trafficking could occur. By learning the warning signs associated with human trafficking and what to do if suspicious activity is detected, the more than 14,500+ beer distribution employees can be an extra set of eyes and ears in the fight against human trafficking.

CAN THE REPORTS TO THE IWATCHTX HOTLINE BE MADE ANONYMOUSLY?

Yes, beer distribution employees can anonymously report suspected human trafficking cases to the iWatchTexas Hotline (1-844-643-2251). Callers do not need to provide their name or any identifying details about the situation unless they are comfortable doing so. The iWatchTexas Hotline does not release any identifying information about a caller unless the caller provides consent.

WHAT DOES THE TABC HUMAN TRAFFICKING EDUCATION TRAINING PROGRAM ENTAIL?

TABC offers a half-hour in-person or virtual education session on how to identify and anonymously report suspected human trafficking. This is tailored for personnel who have a presence in various alcohol retail establishments, and who frequently observe and/or interact with patrons and employees of such establishments, like beer distributor employees do each day. TABC law enforcement personnel will conduct the education session for your staff at your place of business at a date and time convenient for you.

Beer distributors can complete the human trafficking education training program and provide their employees with tip or wallet cards listing red flag behaviors associated with human trafficking. Drivers, merchandisers, and sales representatives should carry the cards with them while they run their routes and visit accounts.

We also encourage distributors to include the training as part of their onboarding process for new employees.

WHERE WILL THE VIDEO, RESOURCES, AND COMPLETION FORM BE AVAILABLE?

The video will be available on the Distributors On Alert Resource Center webpage hosted on the WBDT website, along with a checklist for the training, tip and wallet cards, social media toolkit, a break room poster, truck decals and signs, keychains, press release and letter templates for notifying elected officials about the awareness training and more.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER BEER DISTRIBUTORS COMPLETE THE AWARENESS TRAINING PROGRAM?

Distributor companies should let WBDT know they have completed the education training program by filling out the form on the Distributors On Alert Resource Center webpage on the WBDT website. Once submitted, they will receive a certificate documenting that their company has completed the awareness training, and a certified badge to include on the company website. WBDT will be tracking how many companies have completed the program.

WHAT IF DISTRIBUTORS OR STATE ASSOCIATIONS WANT TO DO MORE?

- Many state attorneys general have staff who specialize in human trafficking training. Distributors may consider contacting their elected officials to invite them or a member of their team to attend your scheduled in-person or virtual training to make remarks before the training begins.
- Partner with local or state non-profit organizations that are working to end human trafficking.
- Please do not hesitate to reach out to WBDT to see how we can support any of these efforts.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE INITIATIVE?

Goals for initiative metrics through the end of 2022:

- Receive commitments from distributor member companies that they will conduct a training session
- Receive commitments from distributor member companies on the number of employees they plan to train

This is an ongoing effort, and WBDT plans to find ways to build on the initiative in phases following the initial launch.