

Pharmacies targeted for Oxycontin, Hydrocodone

Last Edited: Wednesday, 23 Apr 2008, 9:42 PM EDT

Created: Wednesday, 23 Apr 2008, 9:42 PM EDT

TAMPA - A major chain is being hit hard by thieves.

CVS pharmacies have been targeted four times in just the last two weeks.

The most recent happened Wednesday morning in Bradenton. It happened at 6204 14th St. W. Bradenton.

Deputies said a man pulled out a knife, jumped over the counter, and told the pharmacist to "Hold it."

But the pharmacist ran out of the pharmacy toward the front of the store.

The suspect took three to five bottles of Hydrocodone before leaving the store.

In every case, the suspects are looking for either Oxycontin or Hydrocodone.

Retired Tampa Police Sergeant Jim Contento said that often it's the addict who commits the crime.

"He's desperate, it's a quick fix. It's a quick, easy crime and they go and do it," Contento said.

Suspects have hit St. Petersburg, Pinellas Park, Dade City and this morning, they hit Bradenton.

Surveillance video captured many of the crimes.

On the street, Oxycontin and Hydrocodone sell for \$15 a pill. It's nearly double the price what you find in the pharmacy.

Contento said these suspects need to be found soon, before they go further with their violence.

"Unfortunately these are desperate people. And whenever you mess with guns in a situation like that. There's always a potential for someone to get hurt," he said.

Why CVS, over and over?

Officers think it's just the luck of the draw.

But they believe they'll eventually catch up with them.



Police say more thieves are stealing narcotics from pharmacies.

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