

For Immediate Release
February 12, 2009
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To: Media

Chief Wayne M. Longo

Coeur d'Alene Police Department
We serve with pride, dedication, and excellence

On Wednesday February 11th at 6:00pm the Coeur d'Alene Police Department hosted a Robbery/Crime Prevention night for Pharmacy owners and their employees whose businesses reside within the City of Coeur d'Alene. Chief Wayne Longo, Sgt. Turner from the North Idaho Regional Violent Crimes Task Force, and Sgt. Wood shared crime prevention and personal safety strategies with the group.

Twenty-four pharmacy representatives attended the information sharing meeting. The Police Department contacted area pharmacies for this training due to the recent and alarming crime trend of pharmacy robberies in our region. Robbery suspects have become increasingly violent and have demanded the prescription drug oxycontin from the victim stores. As a result, many pharmacies no longer keep the powerful drug on site. There is a waiting period to obtain it after it is called in to the pharmacy.

Pharmacy representatives shared their stories of personal safety concern and were very receptive to crime prevention ideas. Many pharmacies are in process of increasing security measures as a result of pharmacy robberies throughout the Northwest.

Chief Longo expressed his appreciation for their attendance at the meeting in his statement of "It is important for the police department and the community to be pro-active in dealing with this emerging problem. Our goal is to insure that on one is injured due to the desperate actions of a few individuals."

In 2008 there were two pharmacy robberies within the City of Coeur d'Alene and 19 arrests for oxycontin related crimes. Kootenai County Sheriff's Department, the Spokane Police Department and Spokane County Sheriff's Department have also investigated incidents of pharmacy robbery in 2008.

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