

Busy parking lot is scene of shootout

BY PETER J. HOLLEY - EXPRESS-NEWS: AUGUST 7, 2010





Police examine a handgun at the scene of a shooting in the parking lot of an Academy Sports and Outdoors store at Loop 410 and Vance Jackson Road. Police say a man demanded another man's SUV at gunpoint, the second man pulled out a weapon and a gunfight began.

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Police were searching for a would-be

carjacker who they say got into a shootout with the owner of a vehicle he was attempting to steal in the crowded parking lot of a sporting goods store Saturday.

The gunplay at the Academy Sports and Outdoors store injured the vehicle owner and sent panicked customers diving behind cars as bullets whizzed by shortly after noon.

An unidentified man demanded the man's black Hummer SUV at gunpoint in the parking lot in the 2600 block of Northwest Loop 410, police said.

The owner, who was loading his car with his purchases, pulled out his own weapon, and a gunfight ensued, police said.

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"Witnesses are telling us (the two men) dodged in and out of several vehicles, shooting," said Sgt. Daniel Alonzo of the Police Department's robbery task force.

Alonzo said at least 10 shots were fired, one of which struck the SUV owner in his lower right hip, Alonzo said. The man was transported to **University Hospital** in stable condition, police said.

The victim holds a concealed handgun permit and is not expected to face charges, Alonzo said.

"He was trying to protect himself," Alonzo said, adding that the two men didn't appear to know one another.

Police said the would-be carjacker jumped in a white, four-door sedan driven by another man and fled. He was described as Hispanic and between the ages of 18 and 22, wearing a black T-shirt and shorts and brown work boots.

The gunfire scattered bullet casings and left dime-sized bullet holes in the sides of vehicles, turning a large portion of the parking lot into a crime scene. A handful of customers, including **Stacie Hartsfield**, emerged from Academy to find their cars wrapped in crime scene tape and being dusted for fingerprints.

"I have an 11- and a 14-year-old that very easily could've been in the line of fire," said Hartsfield, who estimated she parked next to the victim's SUV less than five minutes before the shooting began. "I feel very blessed."

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