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Crime Stoppers Tips aid in Pharmacy Robbery

RxPATROL to Donate \$1,000 to Crime Stoppers to aid in Pharmacy Robberies

January 31st, 2007 — Jerry Dale Ellis, the man suspected of robbing a local pharmacy in the Charlotte area has been arrested as a result of a public awareness provided by Crime Stoppers and RxPATROL. The robbery occurred at the Walgreens located on North Tyron Street on December 12th. The arrest follows others in communities around the country where Crime Stoppers has partnered with RxPATROL offering rewards for information on pharmacy robberies.

Purdue Pharma, L.P. conceived, developed and funded RxPATROL® (Rx Pattern Analysis Tracking Robberies & Other Losses), a collaborative effort between industry and law enforcement designed to collect, collate, analyze and disseminate pharmacy theft information. Most recently RxPATROL has partnered with Crime Stoppers to allocate funds to be used directly as rewards for tipsters who provide qualifying information with regards to pharmacy robberies.

Last month, The Charlotte/Mecklenburg County Crime Stoppers asked for the public's help with any information relevant to the pharmacy robbery offering up to a \$1,000 cash reward for information that could help the police with their investigation. As a result of these efforts, Crime Stoppers saw an increase in tips received. "We received tips from residents almost immediately after notifying the public of the robbery," said coordinator Perry Beaver. "It is extremely helpful when the public comes forward with information that can lead to the arrest of suspects." In this case, it was information leading detectives to the whereabouts of Jerry Dale Ellis in West Virginia which closed the case.

The Charlotte/Mecklenburg County Crime Stoppers and RxPATROL will continue working together to offer rewards to tipsters providing information leading to the arrest of suspects involved with pharmacy robberies and burglaries. Crime Stoppers is grateful for the support RxPATROL has offered. The cash reward is donated by pharmaceutical company Purdue Pharma L.P., the company which distributes OxyContin® (oxycodone HCl controlled-release) Tablets and developer of the RxPATROL program.

This recent arrest follows several others in Maryland, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Virginia, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. All of these arrests were a result of information from local residents who saw press reports about the robberies and the reward offered by RxPATROL and Crime Stoppers.

"RxPATROL is honored to partner with Crime Stoppers. It has been proven that the public's assistance is vital in helping solve these cases, and if we can assist with those efforts we will." said RxPATROL Liaison Capt. Richard Conklin.

All information that comes into Charlotte/Mecklenburg County Crime Stoppers tip line as well as any other Crime Stoppers tip line is kept completely confidential. Callers never have to give their names or appear in court. Anyone with information about any pharmacy robberies in the area is asked to call Charlotte/Mecklenburg County Crime Stoppers at 1-704-334-1600.

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