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For Immediate Release:  
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## Struggle with shoplifter results in stabbing

**East Bremerton, Wash.** – A Mason County woman is now in custody facing felony charges after stabbing a store employee while being detained for shoplifting.

The incident occurred around 2:50 p.m. this afternoon, at the Fred Meyer Store located at 5050 State Highway 303 NE, East Bremerton.

The victim, a 36 year-old Bremerton man employed as a store loss prevention officer, attempted to detain the 22 year-old suspect as she left the store's south exit without paying for various items of merchandise. Fred Meyer store security had been initially notified by store employees, who had observed the woman attempting to conceal digital video discs (DVDs), amongst other items, on her person.

Store security personnel kept the woman under observation as she moved about inside Fred Meyer until she decided to leave. She was met outside by loss prevention officers who identified themselves and attempted to detain her for investigation of theft.

The suspect ran as one of the loss prevention officers tried to physically restrain her. She spun around with a knife in her hand and swung at the victim. According to investigation reports, the employee ducked to avoid being struck in the face / head and he was stabbed in the upper back, between his shoulder blades. The knife, later recovered, was found to be a folding pocket knife with a blade 2.25 inches in length.

The female continued to struggle and resist for several minutes before finally being restrained by several store employees and civilian witnesses, and escorted to the store's security office where she was transferred into the custody of arriving Sheriff's deputies.

The injured store employee was treated by emergency medical service (EMS) personnel from Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue and transported to Harrison Memorial Hospital (ER), Bremerton, for further medical evaluation and treatment.

Following custody transfer from Fred Meyer store security to Sheriff's deputies, additional stolen merchandise was found on the woman, including Sudafed tablets and lithium batteries, key components used in the illegal manufacture of methamphetamine.

The suspect, while secured in the rear of a Sheriff's patrol car, began to act as if she was under the influence of an unknown substance. On-scene EMS personnel were asked to provide an initial assessment of the woman's condition. She was subsequently transported to Harrison Memorial Hospital for further evaluation.

Upon release from the hospital the woman was transported and booked into the Kitsap County Jail for robbery, 1<sup>st</sup> degree, with bail set at \$500,000, and for possession with intent to manufacture methamphetamine, with bail set at \$10,000. The female was also booked on several outstanding warrants of arrest, including one out of Mason County for attempting to elude a pursuing police vehicle and for shoplifting and assault charges out of other jurisdictions.

The suspect will make her initial appearance in Kitsap County Superior Court at 3:00 p.m. Monday.

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