

# Bandito hits Hills Taco Bell

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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Farmington Hills police are investigating an armed robbery at a Taco Bell where the culprit made off with \$1,208 cash Wednesday afternoon.

At 5:40 p.m., an employee at the fast food restaurant on 10 Mile Road told police a man showed up on foot at the drive-through window complaining the clerk left a taco out of his order.

After the worker gave him the taco, he then ordered a pop, police reports said.

When she opened the cash drawer, he told her to give him all the money. He revealed a black handgun, she told police.

No one else witnessed the robbery.

**A customer saw a black male wearing a blue shirt, dark blue apron and black shorts running south toward 10 Mile.**

She turned over the money and the robber ran off. She couldn't describe the assailant, only to say that he was white or biracial.

"There are some conflicting pieces of information and descriptions we are investigating," Assistant Chief Chuck Nobus said.

A customer saw a black male wearing a blue shirt, dark blue apron and black shorts running south toward 10 Mile. Authorities questioned an employee at Ponderosa restaurant next door.

A worker there said he was running outside to catch his cousin, who abruptly left work at 5:38 p.m. to catch a SMART bus. The employee was scheduled to work until 10 p.m., a manager said.

The 17-year-old left because he had problems waking up for school the next morning, the cousin told police.

A Taco Bell manager also reported there was no money put into the drop box, which is unusual, he said.

Anyone with information is asked to phone Farmington Hills police at 473-9694.



**Man Injured:** Farmington Hills firefighters had to use the jaws of life to extract the driver of a passenger car after it collided with a pickup truck on 10 Mile and Farmington roads around 11:45 a.m. Friday. The man sustained an injury to his right knee. Battalion Chief John Wells said. His injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

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**SUDEK'S ATROPHY**

This condition occurs most often after you fracture a wrist. Your hand is in a cast, and although the cast is not tight, your wrist and hand feel compressed. Your hand feels swollen, pain shoots through it, and at times the fingers are numb.

Furthermore, though you did not injure your shoulder, you find your shoulder on the side of your injured wrist is aching. Soon after your motion in the shoulder becomes restricted so you cannot put on a shirt or coat without pain and effort.

You have developed Sudék's atrophy.

In this condition, the injury to your wrist sets off a reaction from your sympathetic nervous system. This is part of the automatic nervous system which regulates the size of blood vessels in your hand and shoulder. For unknown reasons, your elbow is spastic.

The unregulated activation causes blood vessels in these areas to clamp down. The resulting lack of blood supply to the hand, wrist and capsule of the shoulder causes the pain that characterizes the condition.

Because of these features, Sudék's atrophy is also called shoulder-hand syndrome.

Treatment consists of heat and using the arm and hand as much as you can tolerate. Other treatments include a sympathetic nerve block or a short course of high dose prednisone. The long-term efficacy of these therapies is not established. Fortunately in most cases, time is sufficient to restore useful function.

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