

Robbers Zap Man With Electric Gun

Miami

The young blonde in a pink sweater walked into the gas station and shot the attendant, William Lawson with a 50,000-volt electric gun.

Then she and a man accomplice robbed the station and fled.

"I'd rather it had been somebody else," said Lawson, 27. Police said yesterday he was the first known victim of the electronic-age dart gun, which immobilizes its victims.

Lawson told police the young woman entered the station and asked to use the phone. The attendant said as he showed her to the phone, she turned toward him and, "calm and smiling," shot him.

"It was like sticking your finger in a wall socket," he said. He is still shaken and sore from the robbery Wednesday. "I fell on the floor and couldn't move.

"It was the worst pain I ever felt," he said. "My whole right side was jumping. I couldn't control my muscles."

Lawson said the woman was joined by a man who leaned over

and pulled the wires from the darts in his belly, then helped the woman clean out the cash register of an undetermined amount.

One of the darts was left in his flesh.

Police said eight of the weapons, called the "Taser Public Defender," were stolen recently from an office in Miami Shores.

The Taser, which Lawson said reminded him of a gray flashlight, launches two small darts attached to batteries by 18-foot wires. The darts can penetrate 1½ inches of clothing, and the 50,000-volt charge is described as incapacitating and very painful.

The weapon's makers, Taser System, Inc. of Los Angeles, describe it as a nonlethal crime prevention device for stopping attackers.

A brochure that comes with it states that, in early testing, a blast from the gun using only 30,000 volts flattened a 250-pound bull.

Lawson, who weighs 140 pounds, was knocked senseless, his hearing and vision blurred.

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