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Alleged theft turns into dangerous situation between four men, two handguns in Boise

- Idaho Statesman

Boise Police de-escalated a petit theft that turned into a dangerous situation with four men and two handguns.

Just after 1:15 p.m. Friday, Boise Police received a call of a man with a gun near Americana Boulevard and River Street. Multiple officers arrived on scene and found two men with handguns pointed at different people. Police de-escalated and sorted out the situation, according to a Friday release.

Police said the original suspect, later identified as John Dickey, had allegedly stolen personal property from a victim at a nearby homeless shelter. The suspect fled on foot traveling east on River Street. As the victim chased on foot, a third man intervened the chase, produced a handgun and ordered the suspect to stop.

The suspect was on the ground and held at gunpoint when another person, who also had a concealed weapons permit, saw the situation, intervened and demanded the other man drop his gun. Officers then arrived on scene, according to the release.

Police said the original theft suspect is in custody. No other citations have been issued and information on the incident is forwarded to the Ada County Prosecutor's Office for review.

"We caution all citizens to think carefully before intervening in a potentially dangerous situation without knowing what is actually taking place. Although we are pleased that the theft suspect is in custody the situation could have easily turned into something much worse in this busy part of town," said Boise Police Lt. Ron Winegar. "Our concern is always primarily for the safety of the citizens of Boise and the last thing we would want to see is someone seriously injured."