

Idaho pharmacies have experienced several burglaries over the last eleven months, with six occurring since April 2019. Three of which resulted in the loss of ALL of the Schedule II medications on hand. In these cases the Schedule II medications were kept in locked cabinets, but the burglars easily pried open the cabinets and took all the medications. The burglars have not been caught. There has also been one armed robbery in this time period.

Idaho code § 37-2720 and IDAPA 27.01.01.300.02 requires registrants to store controlled substances in conformance with federal law. Federal law, Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1301.75(b) allows pharmacies to either store the controlled substances in a securely locked, substantially constructed cabinet, or to disperse the controlled substances throughout stock of the noncontrolled substances in such a manner as to obstruct the theft or diversion of the controlled substances.

In the cases of the three successful pharmacy burglaries, the cabinets were easily breached. It is uncertain if dispersing the Schedule II medications throughout the stock would have reduced the amount stolen, or if the delay in searching for the desired medications would have resulted in the apprehension of the burglars.

While the Idaho Board of Pharmacy does not dictate how to meet federal and state codes, we are recommending that Pharmacy staff reevaluate their existing security measures and procedures to ensure the safety of the pharmacy staff and the safety of the controlled substances in their possession. DEA considers the criteria in 21 CFR 1301.71 (b) to determine if the registrant's security is adequate.

- (1) The type of activity conducted (e.g., processing of bulk chemicals, preparing dosage forms, packaging, labeling, cooperative buying, etc.);
- (2) The type and form of controlled substances handled (e.g., bulk liquids or dosage units, usable powders or nonusable powders);
- (3) The quantity of controlled substances handled;
- (4) The location of the premises and the relationship such location bears on security needs;
- (5) The type of building construction comprising the facility and the general characteristics of the building or buildings;
- (6) The type of vault, safe, and secure enclosures or other storage system (e.g., automatic storage and retrieval system) used;
- (7) The type of closures on vaults, safes, and secure enclosures;
- (8) The adequacy of key control systems and/or combination lock control systems;
- (9) The adequacy of electric detection and alarm systems, if any including use of supervised transmittal lines and standby power sources;
- (10) The extent of unsupervised public access to the facility, including the presence and characteristics of perimeter fencing, if any;
- (11) The adequacy of supervision over employees having access to manufacturing and storage areas;
- (12) The procedures for handling business guests, visitors, maintenance personnel, and nonemployee service personnel;
- (13) The availability of local police protection or of the registrant's or applicant's security personnel;
- (14) The adequacy of the registrant's or applicant's system for monitoring the receipt, manufacture, distribution, and disposition of controlled substances in its operations; and (15) The applicability of the security requirements contained in all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations governing the management of waste.

It is notable that one location was burglarized twice. The first time all CII stock was taken. The second time the burglar is seen viewing the newly installed safe and turns away, leaving empty handed.

The cost of the stolen Schedule II medications can be recouped from the insurance companies, but the lives damaged or destroyed by the burglars selling the controlled substances on the street cannot easily be fixed.

Pictured below are some examples of cabinets that were quickly breached and completely emptied.



*CII cabinet pried open*



*Close-up of CII cabinet pry marks*



*CII cabinet drawers ripped out*



*CII cabinets*