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# Knife attack at EDD offices

## Brothers bloodied in assault

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Two Watsonville teenage brothers suffered multiple stab wounds yesterday afternoon when they were attacked by assailants traveling in two cars who followed the pair to the Employment Development Department office parking lot on Arthur Road and cornered them between two parked vehicles.

Watsonville police said Joel Carlos Alvarez, 19, and Jose Anthony Alvarez, 15, were driving on Arthur Road around 3:50 p.m., heading for the EDD office, where one of the brothers had an appointment.

Two cars passed the brothers' early-model Japanese import station wagon and yelled something at the boys, police said. The brothers pulled into the EDD parking lot, which is in the rear of the building.

The two cars turned around and followed the Alvarez boys into the parking lot. Police said the brothers were confronted by four to five men, who attacked the brothers as they were squeezed into a narrow space between their station wagon and a van.

After the attack, the brothers ran inside the office, leaving a trail of blood. One of the brothers — police did not indicate which — received stab wounds to the head, upper arm, and lower leg, where



Kurt Ellison

See STABBING / back of section ▶ Lt. Jim Brown, right, of the Watsonville Police Department questions victim as paramedic Mill Sharp tends to the teen's wounds.

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# STABBING

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police speculated an artery was cut. A large pool of blood covered the floor where he lay, and blood was splattered on walls, counters, and office furniture.

A witness in the office said he was holding his hand over his head wound as blood covered his face and began screaming for someone to call the police before he dropped to the floor.

The other brother received at least one stab wound to the chest area. He staggered behind a counter and sat down in a chair, holding his wound, a witness said.

Employees inside the office were stunned when they saw the two bloodied boys, but managed to stay calm enough to provide first aid before police and medical staff arrived at the scene.

Watsonville Police Sgt. Kim Austin said when police arrived, EDD

employees had calmed the brothers and were trying to control the profuse bleeding.

"They had it all under control," Austin said.

Austin said a couple of volunteer fire fighters were also in the office at the time and assisted in providing medical care.

The brothers were taken to Watsonville Community Hospital, Jose Anthony was admitted and was listed in stable condition, hospital officials said. His brother's condition was being evaluated at press time to determine whether he would also be admitted, hospital officials said.

Police did not know whether the victims and the assailants knew each other or if the attack was gang related.

At press time, police had not made any arrests. The assailants were described as Latino men, between 20- and 25-years-old, and driving in two medium-size, dark-colored sedans with tinted windows.