

BLACK SABBATH

SUPER-SATURDAY ONLINE STAMPEDE
INJURES SHOPPERS, AMAZON WORKERS

SPECIAL TO THE WEB OF LANGUAGE

Northbrook, IL. — At least twelve suburban Chicago shoppers were injured early on Super Saturday by stampeding crowds and pepper spray in what has become an annual stampede to buy deeply-discounted holiday gifts online, on the last shopping Saturday before Christmas, according to police reports.

The last few years have seen growing numbers of shopping-related injuries, and even deaths, as out-of-control crowds surged through the doors as early as 4:00 a.m. when malls and discount stores opened on Black Friday, traditionally the start of the holiday shopping season.

But this year was the first to see online shoppers and webstore personnel incur injuries as customers surged online looking for bargains, said one industry analyst. “Apparently shoppers thought they’d be safer if they shopped online,” said Wired Magazine’s Grace Hopper. “That turned out to be wrong,” Hopper added.

Amazon.com, the online shopping giant, reported the most problems. In one incident, an Amazon computer security guard was overcome by unruly shoppers forcing their way through the website’s portal.

“This wasn’t surfing, this was a tsunami,” said Leo Bloom. “I’m a veteran of WikiLeaks and the Stuxnet virus. I survived countless denial of service attacks,” he added. Bloom was listed in stable condition at Amazon.com’s Online Medical Care facility (Amazon Prime members always enjoy free shipping/free returns!).

That wasn’t the online shopping giant’s biggest problem yesterday. One Amazon shopper sought medical treatment when she was pepper-sprayed for entering the wrong

credit card security code in her Amazon shopping cart, and local emergency rooms reported treating up to ten people for various online shopping injuries.

“We had a woman come in with severe carpal tunnel,” said Jane Bennett, public affairs spokesperson for Northwestern University / Skokie Valley Hospital. “She was just trying to update the quantity box, when, boom, her hand froze in pain,” Bennett said.

Other area hospitals reported sprained fingers from overheated trackpads, and a broken wrist when an inexperienced online shopper tried to change the batteries on his computer mouse with one hand while texting with the other. “He should have sought professional help,” said EMT Jay Gatsby, who transported the injured man to a local emergency room. “You don’t try something like that at home.”

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The National Superhighway Transportation Safety Board (NSTSB), in Washington, DC, has launched an investigation and plans to announce regulations reduce online shopping injuries.

But Republican presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich cited the Supreme Court decision in Citizens United, which ruled that Amazon.com and other web merchants are people. “The government should not interfere with any person’s constitutionally-guaranteed right to sell online,” Gingrich told FoxNews.