Sidewalk-assessment robots, knocked over and hit in Hollister

The day after Hollister, California put sidewalk-assessment robots to work on a federal grant, a man on a bicycle knocked one onto its side, and another man hit two more, the second of which had recorded him, and poured over it what police believed was beer.



By the Clerk · 28 May 2026 · 2 min read

CASE:	BAS-0011
SUBJECT:	Two men whom Hollister police later identified as suspects
OBJECT:	Daxbot sidewalk-assessment robots, deployed by the City of Hollister
DATE:	28 May 2026
PLACE:	Hollister, California
FILED:	10 October 2026
GRADE:	CONTEMPT · INDIVIDUAL

Facts

The City of Hollister put robots from Daxbot on its sidewalks on 27 May 2026. They were there to assess how accessible the pedestrian network is, as part of a project the city runs with the consulting firm Kimley-Horn and pays for with a federal Safe Streets and Roads for All grant, according to BenitoLink. They measure what manual assessments miss, in Daxbot's words — sidewalk cracks, uplifts and surface defects — and check compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act standards. CBS reports Daxbot's figure of 6 to 7 miles of sidewalk a day against 2 to 3 for a two-person crew. The work was expected to take several weeks to several months.

> More on why a robot with no AI in it is still filed.

On Thursday 28 May, the next day, Hollister police were called to vandalism reports on the 800 block of 4th Street and near West and 5th Streets. Daxbot had reported them. CBS describes two incidents. In the first,

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surveillance footage shows a man on a bicycle knocking a robot onto its side and leaving. In the second, a suspect hits one robot near 4th and Line Streets, then hits a second robot, which recorded the encounter, and pours on it a liquid police believed to be beer.

Hollister's police chief, Carlos Reynoso, confirmed to CBS that two men were arrested on the Sunday after, one for suspicion of resisting arrest and one for suspicion of carrying a dagger. Neither arrest was for the robots. Police later identified both as suspects in the vandalism. CBS lists no charge for it. The two men are not named here.

CBS does not name the robot's model or say what damage was done, if any.

Statements

The City of Hollister, as CBS reports its officials: the robots are safe, move at walking speed, collect no personal data and replace no city jobs. The city asked residents to give them space to work, as they would city crews.

Hollister police, in the statement CBS cites, confirmed the two arrests as following unrelated incidents.

For the record

The robots were sent out to document the condition of Hollister's sidewalks. One of them, by CBS's account, also recorded the man who was hitting the robot beside it.

Mitigating circumstances

No source reports damage to any robot, or that one stopped working. Neither man has a charge for the robots listed in the sources read, and each was arrested for something else. A liquid was "believed to be" beer, police say, not known to be. The robots were a day old on the street.

SOURCES

1. Tim Fang, California pair accused of hitting, pouring beer on robots analyzing sidewalks (archived), CBS News Bay Area, 2 June 2026
2. Jenny Mendolla Arbizu, Fact brief: Did the City of Hollister deploy law enforcement robots in May 2026? (archived), BenitoLink, 12 June 2026

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