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13 inmates disciplined after fights in prison yard

COXSACKIE - More than a dozen inmates were separated from the prison population and a corrections officer had to fire a warning shot after several fights broke out this week at the Coxsackie Correctional Facility, a spokesman for the state Correction Officers Police Benevolent Association said on Friday.

Denny Fitzpatrick said the fights occurred Tuesday in the main recreation yard at the maximum-security prison and resulted in the isolation of 13 inmates. He said more inmates were involved but could not be identified.

Fitzpatrick said the isolated inmates would be disciplined by the prison. It was not clear whether they also will face criminal charges.

Fitzpatrick said several one-on-one fights broke out simultaneously and other inmates soon joined the melee. He said an officer in a guard tower saw what was happening and fired a warning shot from his weapon.

The warning shot is a signal for inmates to stop what they're doing and lie down, Fitzpatrick said.

Corrections officers were able to restore order, though a few suffered minor injuries, Fitzpatrick said.

He said the inmates were locked up and two homemade weapons were found in the fight area.

Fitzpatrick said the weapons apparently were not used in the fight.

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