

Multiple Incidents at Five Points Correctional Facility Injure Staff

Inmate on Inmate Fights, Weapons Recovered, Inmate Overdoses and Visitors Arrested in the Month of September

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Romulus, NY – One sergeant and five officers were injured, and two officers were spit in the face and eyes by inmates following an inmate fight that occurred in the mess hall during the evening meal at the maximum security correctional facility. Four officers were transported to Geneva Hospital for treatment of exposure after the incident.

It unfolded on Thursday, August 28, when staff were monitoring the evening meal in the mess hall. Two inmates ran up on another and began exchanging punches. The three inmates ignored orders to stop and separate. A response was called and when additional staff arrived OC spray was utilized on the three inmates which caused them to separate. Two inmates complied with staff and got on the ground and were handcuffed. The third inmate remained combative. He was placed in a body hold and forced to the ground. On the ground, he put his arms under his body and locked his fingers together. Staff were able to force his arms out from underneath his body and apply handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, he was brought to his feet, and all three inmates were escorted out of the mess hall to be decontaminated.

During a search of the mess hall, a plastic shank was recovered near where one of the inmates was laying on the floor. A later review of video determined one of the inmates in the fight discarded the make-shift weapon under a trash can prior to it being discovered.

When staff escorted one of the inmates back to his cell, he refused to enter the cell.

Officers used body holds and forced him into the cell and onto the floor. Still struggling with staff, the inmate punched one officer in the face and bit two officers on the hand and fingers breaking the skin. After a brief struggle, staff were able to apply handcuffs and leg restraints.

Brought to his feet, the inmate refused to walk and was placed on a gurney. On the gurney he continued to threaten officers and spit in the face of two officers, striking both in their eyes. A spit net was applied, and the inmate was transported to a Special Housing Unit for evaluation without further incident.

Injured staff were treated by medical staff at the facility. The sergeant was treated for a back injury. Three officers were treated for shoulder, neck, and wrist injuries. They all remained on duty.

Two officers sustained bite marks to their wrist, thumb and two fingers that broke the skin. Medical staff deemed they sustained significant exposure. Two officers were treated for significant exposure after they were spit in their eyes. The four officers were transported to Geneva Hospital for further treatment.

In addition to that latest attack, the following incidents occurred at the facility in the past few months:

 Six makeshift weapons were recovered through searches by staff including two that inmates had hidden underneath a mattress and in department issued pants.

2. Six inmate on inmate fights occurred, two of which inmates sustained injuries consistent with being cut with a weapon.
 A sergeant had urine thrown in his face through the recreation gate after an inmate refused to return to his cell. The sergeant was treated at a local hospital for exposure.
4. Two female visitors were arrested for disorderly conduct after they began fighting in the visitor's room and staff needed to utilize OC spray to get them to separate. Both females were escorted from the facility and issued appearance tickets by the New York State Police
5. One male visitor was arrested for Promoting Prison Contraband 2nd after a K9 alerted on him and he turned over two bundles from his pants that contained marijuana and three sheets of paper that were saturated with an unknown liquid.
6. One sergeant and five officers were injured when an inmate who was being escorted to a Special Housing Unit after a disciplinary hearing attacked and bit a sergeant and several officers. The sergeant, whose skin was broken, was transported to Thompson Medical Center for further treatment.
7. Three inmates were successfully revived by staff utilizing Narcan after apparent overdoses during the month of September.

- 8. A convicted murderer who carried out a gang execution shooting in Harlem in 2021, fought with several officers and attempted to kick them several times on the ground as they attempted to process him into a Special Housing Unit. After a brief struggle, leg restraints were applied to the inmate and he became compliant.
- 9. Two officers were injured when an inmate barricaded himself inside his cell with his mattress and wouldn't respond to staff. Several officers entered the cell to check on his well-being, and the inmate became aggressive, struggled with officers, and attempted to assault them. After he was brought under control and placed in handcuffs, the inmate spit in the face of one of the officers.

"The level of violence and other illegal activity at Five Points recently cannot be understated. The inmate on staff assaults, inmate on inmate violence, weapons and drugs recovered, and visitors being arrested attempting to smuggle drugs into inmates pushes staff to the limit to be able to maintain control inside the prison, especially at the low staffing levels that exist. It might sound like a broken record to continually call for the State Legislature to amend the HALT Act immediately, but it is a record that we will continually sing regardless of their dismissive attitude to the violence and unsafe work environment that currently exists for both our members and the individuals that live there as well."-stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.