



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

"Keeping New York Safe"

Multiple Throwing Incidents Occur at Auburn Correctional Facility

Several Staff Treated at Auburn Community Hospital for Exposure

For Immediate Release

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Auburn, NY - Four throwing incidents occurred at a maximum-security correctional facility last week, during a seven-day period, resulting in multiple staff members being struck in the face and body with bodily fluids.

The first incident occurred on Saturday, January 17. An officer conducting security rounds was struck in the back with a urine-smelling liquid thrown through the cell bars by an inmate. A response was immediately called, and the inmate was ordered to exit the cell. He refused and subsequently ignited a small fire inside the cell, which was extinguished by an officer using a fire extinguisher. After all attempts to gain compliance failed, an extraction team was deployed. During the incident, the inmate propelled additional liquid, striking a second officer. The extraction team entered the cell, applied body holds, and secured the inmate on his bed. Once under control, handcuffs were applied and the inmate was removed from the cell.

Both officers were treated for exposure by facility medical staff and later transported to Auburn Community Hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

Later that same day, an officer monitoring the main yard observed an inmate spray another inmate in the face with liquid from a container. The two inmates then began exchanging punches. A response was called, and during the altercation the container was picked up again and sprayed, striking a responding sergeant and officer in the face with a feces- and urine-smelling liquid. OC spray was deployed, and both inmates became compliant. They were removed from the yard and secured in their cells.

The sergeant and officer received treatment from facility medical staff for significant exposure and were transported to Auburn Community Hospital. Neither returned to duty.

On Saturday, January 24, an officer conducting an inmate count in a cell block was struck in the head and upper body when an inmate threw a urine-smelling liquid from a cup inside his cell. The officer was treated by facility medical staff and remained on duty.

The following day, an officer conducting security rounds was struck in the face and eyes by urine-smelling liquid thrown from a cup by an inmate inside his cell. The officer was treated at the facility infirmary and transported to Auburn Community Hospital for additional care. He did not return to duty.

Unrelated to the throwing incidents, staff recovered liquid-stained paper believed to be synthetic drugs during a routine pat frisk of an inmate. The inmate was escorted back to his cell, where a subsequent frisk recovered three sheets of suspected drug-soaked paper from his pants pocket. While being secured in his cell, the inmate turned and spit in the face of an officer. A cell shield was ordered for installation. During the installation process, another frisk was conducted, and staff detected a bulge in the inmate's clothing. The inmate was removed and escorted to a Special Housing Unit frisk room, where additional suspected drug-soaked paper was recovered from his sock. All suspected drugs were seized as evidence.

“Weak disciplinary systems and the lack of meaningful consequences for bad behavior often lead to continued and escalating misconduct,” said Kenny Gold, Western Region Vice President. “Inmates recognize there is little accountability for their often-violent actions. The HALT Act has created an environment that is detrimental to the safety of both staff and inmates who follow the rules. Until the legislature seriously considers the recommendations of the HALT Committee, incidents like these will continue. These throwing incidents not only jeopardize the health of our members but further highlight a work environment that fails to prioritize the safety of the men and women who work inside these prisons every single day.”