



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Multiple Cell Fires Ignited at Marcy Correctional Facility

Officers, National Guardsman Sustain Smoke Inhalation Extinguishing Flames

For Immediate Release

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Marcy , NY — On Sunday, three fires were deliberately set by inmates within an hour of each other at the medium security correctional facility, resulting in eight officers and three National Guardsmen being treated for suspected smoke inhalation. The series of fires occurred in quick succession, requiring immediate and coordinated response from facility staff.

The first fire was reported at 3:20 p.m. when a large amount of black smoke was observed in one of the cell blocks. Upon arrival, staff discovered smoke and flames visible through the cell door window, with a mattress and other inmate-issued items burning inside. Initially, one officer attempted to extinguish the fire using a fire extinguisher but was unsuccessful. A fire hose was then deployed to control the blaze. After the fire was put out, the attached recreation pens were opened to ventilate the area. Officers and National Guardsmen entered the cell and found the inmate sitting in the recreation pen. The inmate was handcuffed, escorted out of the cell, and transported to the infirmary for evaluation.

Approximately forty minutes later, a second fire was reported in a nearby cell within the same block. Staff responded swiftly and quickly extinguished the flames. As before, the recreation pens were opened for ventilation, and the inmate was removed from the cell and brought to the infirmary without resistance.

A third fire was reported twenty minutes later, again within the same cell block. Smoke and flames were visible through the cell door window. Officers quickly used the fire hose to extinguish the fire, ventilated the area, and extracted the inmate from the cell. The inmate was handcuffed and escorted to the infirmary for evaluation.

All responding staff were initially treated by medical personnel at the facility. Eight officers were transported to Rome and Wynn Hospitals for treatment of smoke inhalation, while three National Guardsmen were treated on-site. Additionally, one sergeant sustained hip and back injuries during the incidents and was treated at Wynn Hospital.

“Fires set inside of cells by inmates are extremely hazardous to responding staff.” The safety of staff and their health are often put at risk in situations like this. The risks are compounded by the lack of proper firefighting equipment and the challenge of ventilating smoke quickly from the cell blocks. Staff can be exposed to dangerous chemicals in the smoke, which can have long term respiratory effects.

This situation is further worsened by the **HALT Legislation**, which has removed meaningful deterrents for this type of behavior, allowing inmates to set fires with little fear of serious consequences. Additionally, many cells have a recreation area attached, and inmates have manipulated the doors to that area for years. They frequently exit into these pens during incidents, shielding themselves from the smoke while staff must enter the affected areas to respond.”– stated Bryan Hluska, Central Region Vice President.