



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

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***"Keeping New York Safe"***

**Staff Injured, Inmate Attempts Escape at Groveland Correctional Facility**

*Officer Sustains Concussion in Assault, Inmate Gets Caught in Razor Wire Climbing Fence*

**For Immediate Release**

**July 7, 2026**

**Sonyea, NY** — A correction officer suffered a concussion after being kicked in the head by an intoxicated inmate who was being transported for medical treatment at the medium security correctional facility. In a separate incident one week later, three staff members were injured while preventing an inmate from escaping after he climbed the facility's interior perimeter fence and became entangled in razor wire at Groveland Correctional Facility.

The first incident occurred on Tuesday, June 23rd. Two officers observed an inmate struggling to stand near the basketball courts. When they approached him, the inmate began vomiting and was mumbling incoherently. Believing he required immediate medical attention, the officers placed him into a transport van to be taken to the facility infirmary. During the transport, the inmate became increasingly agitated. When officers arrived at the infirmary and attempted to escort him from the van, the inmate suddenly reared back and kicked one officer in the side of the face, knocking him backward into the transport vehicle. Staff immediately forced the inmate to the ground, secured him, and placed him onto a gurney before he was brought into the infirmary for medical treatment.

The assaulted officer sustained facial swelling, headache, and dizziness. He was transported to Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital, where he was diagnosed with a concussion.

A sergeant sustained shoulder and knee injuries while assisting in subduing the inmate. He was treated by medical staff at the facility and remained on duty.

The inmate, 34, is serving a one-to-three-year sentence after being convicted in Livingston County in 2025 of Driving While Intoxicated, Third Offense.

The second incident occurred on Tuesday, June 30. A sergeant was interviewing an inmate inside the recreation room of a dormitory when the inmate suddenly fled the area. As the sergeant turned, the inmate ran out of the dorm and sprinted toward the facility's interior perimeter fence. Officers immediately pursued the inmate as he started climbing the perimeter fence. He refused repeated orders to stop climbing the fence and became entangled in the razor wire at the top of the fence. Responding staff were eventually able to free the inmate from the razor wire, pull him safely to the ground, and once on the ground the inmate refused to let go of the fence. After multiple orders they staff was able to place him in handcuffs.

The inmate was transported to the facility infirmary before being taken to Wyoming County Community Hospital for treatment of deep lacerations to his forearm, elbow, upper arm, shoulder, back and hands. Following treatment, he was transferred to Attica Correctional Facility and placed in a Special Housing Unit.

During the incident, a sergeant suffered a puncture wound to his thumb from the razor wire and was exposed to the inmate's blood. One officer sustained significant blood exposure, while a second officer suffered an ankle injury during the apprehension. All three employees were transported to Noyes Hospital for evaluation and treatment.

The inmate, 46, is serving a one-to-three-year sentence after being convicted in Onondaga County in 2025 of Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree.

NYSOPBA Western Region Vice President Kenny Gold said, "These incidents demonstrate the unpredictable and dangerous conditions our members face every day. In one incident, officers were simply trying to ensure an intoxicated inmate received medical treatment when they were met with violence that left one officer with a concussion. Just a week later, staff had to respond immediately to an inmate attempting to escape by climbing a razor-wire perimeter fence, resulting in additional injuries to a sergeant and officers who put their own health at risk by ensuring the inmate didn't hurt himself even worse and prevented him from fleeing into the community.

Our members are expected to protect the public, maintain the security of our correctional facilities, and respond to medical emergencies, assaults, and escape attempts without hesitation. Every one of those responsibilities carries significant risk, and these incidents are another reminder of the professionalism and courage correction officers and sergeants display every day while working in an increasingly dangerous environment."