

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

INFORMATION ON INCIDENT REVIEW

Introduction

This review focused on the circumstances surrounding a disturbance at the Cape Breton Correctional Facility (CBCF) at approximately 12:10 p.m. on September 8, 2012.

Considerations

The review considered the following:

- The events leading up to the disturbance
- The actions of offenders during the disturbance
- The actions taken in response to the incident
- Whether all applicable policies and procedures were followed.
- If appropriate policies and procedures are in place.

Issue

On September 8, 2012, 11 offenders were involved in a disturbance at the CBCF. The offenders became agitated when the television in the dorm was turned off after the staff had made several requests to turn down the television's volume.

Facts

Offenders covered the video cameras and used other means to obscure the visibility into the dorm, threw debris, broke sprinkler heads, barricaded the dorm entrances to impede the correctional officers' access, and subsequently started three fires.

Regional police, fire department, and Emergency Health Services (EHS) attended the scene.

Staff put out the first two fires. Firefighters brought a hose to the correctional staff to assist in putting out the third fire; this was the only direct involvement by Fire Services personnel.

After conductive energy weapons (CEWs) were presented, all offenders complied with instructions to lie down on the floor. Officers subsequently entered the dorm and restrained the offenders. The CEWs were not used.

Regular operations resumed at approximately 4:00 p.m. on September 8, 2012.

Damage to the living unit included the TV, sprinkler heads, sections of the ceiling, duct work and ventilation system. The second floor of the facility was flooded and approximately 4,000 gallons of water needed to be cleaned up. The lower level of the facility also sustained water damage. The estimated cost of clean-up and repairs was \$20,000.

Findings

Calling in off-duty correctional officers and managers, and requesting Cape Breton Regional Police, Grand Lake Fire Department, and EHS personnel to respond and stand-by, complied with Correctional Services policy and procedures.

On-site CBCF managers coordinated the response to the disturbance, including briefing and assigning tasks to the intervention teams prior to their entering the dorm. All actions complied with Correctional Services policy and procedures.

Use of force procedures complied with Correctional Services policy and procedures.

Neither staff nor offenders sustained injuries.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Criminal Code charges are pending against one offender.