



Assaults on Staff Finish out Record Year at Five Points Correctional Facility

Assaults on Staff and Inmate on Inmate Assaults Set Single Year Record in 2024

For Immediate Release

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Romulus, NY – Multiple officers were injured in several attacks on staff to end year at Five Points Correctional Facility, setting a one-year record of 2,072 assaults on staff in 2024. Inmate on inmate assaults also set a one-year record of 2,983 assaults, including an apparent inmate homicide on December 23 at the maximum-security correctional facility.

- On Friday, November 29, two officers had a cup of urine thrown at them, striking one officer in the upper body after they attempted to extinguish a fire the inmate had set inside his cell.
- On Wednesday, December 11, four officers were injured, two sustaining smoke inhalation after the inmate refused to leave his cell and set paper on fire inside the cell. Initially, after the inmate refused to exit the cell, an officer attempted to apply handcuffs through the cell door food hatch. After getting one handcuff on one of the inmate's wrists, the inmate grabbed the officer's wrist and pulled it into the cell and refused to let go. The cell door was opened by staff. The inmate, while still holding onto the officer's wrist, struck him in the face when the door was opened and struck a second officer in the body. The inmate was placed in a body hold and forced to the floor, where he remained combative, kicking at staff. Officers were able to apply handcuffs and leg restraints after

a brief struggle and all forced ceased. The initial officer who was assaulted sustained a laceration to his forearm and eye and facial injuries. Three officers sustained shoulder and hand injuries subduing the inmate.

- On Saturday, December 14, six officers were injured and three transported to the local hospital after staff opened the cell door after he refused to exit the cell and he attacked the officers, making slashing motions with a make-shift weapon. The inmate punched one officer in the eye and a second officer in the face as he made slashing motions with a sharpened piece of plastic. The inmate was forced to the floor, where he dropped the weapon. On the floor and struggling, the inmate attempted to grab the weapon again before staff were able to apply handcuffs and leg restraints. Three officers sustained superficial lacerations from the weapon in addition to wrist, shoulder, back and elbow injuries. Three officers were transported to Cayuga Medical Center for further treatment.
- On Wednesday, December 18, a sergeant, and officer were injured when an inmate lunged towards the officer with a weapon he had hidden in his pants during an escort. Initially, the officer observed the inmate reach into his pants and pull out a sharpened toothbrush. The inmate unsuccessfully lunged at the officer with the weapon. He dropped the weapon to the floor and struck the officer in the face before additional staff arrived and forced the inmate to the ground. He tried to grab the weapon while on the floor but was unsuccessful. His arms were forced behind his back and handcuffs were applied, and he became compliant.
- On the same day, two officers were injured after an inmate attacked them and threw brown liquid on them containing feces when the officers entered his cell after the inmate was initially unresponsive. When the officers entered the cell, the inmate jumped off his bed and threw the liquid, striking both officers in the body. He was grabbed in a body hold and forced to the ground where he bit one of the officers on the forearm. After a brief struggle, handcuffs were applied, and the inmate became compliant. Besides the exposure to the bodily liquid, the officers sustained a bitemark to the arm and an elbow injury. They were treated by medical staff at the facility and remained on duty.
- On Tuesday, December 23, an officer conducting rounds observed an inmate lying face down on his bed unresponsive. The officer called for a medical response and staff opened the cell door and ordered the other inmate inside the cell to exit. Officers approached the unresponsive inmate and observed a string around his neck tied into a knot. The inmate was moved to the floor of the cell and had no pulse. Officers cut the string from around the inmate's neck and began CPR immediately. Medical staff arrived at the cell and continued CPR and administered seven doses of Narcan with no effect. After several attempts to revive the inmate, he was pronounced dead at the scene. State police were notified of the incident and responded to the facility. The preliminary results have not determined the cause of death. The other inmate in the cell made incriminating

statements to staff and was removed from the cell block and placed in a Special Housing Unit pending further investigation.

In a five-year period ending in 2024, assaults on staff have doubled since 2020 and inmate on inmate assaults have almost tripled, continuing a trend of rising violence inside state prisons amidst staffing shortages and mandatory overtime forcing officers to work long shifts with little notice or relief in sight.