



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

***Inmates Injured in Recreation Yard Fight at Wende
Correctional Facility***

Officers Utilize Chemical Agents to Stop Fight from Escalating

May 26, 2021

Alden , NY – Several inmates were injured in the recreation yard after three fights broke out among inmates causing staff to deploy [chemical agents](#) to control the three dozen plus inmates who were in the yard at the time of the incident.

On Friday, May 21, at approximately 7:30 p.m., an officer assigned to the recreation yard observed two inmates fighting. The two inmates were exchanging punches to the head and body. Simultaneously, two other inmates began fighting and exchanging punches. Officers gave several orders for the inmates to stop fighting. Initially, all four inmates complied and stopped fighting. Shortly after, one of the inmates charged another inmate who was in the weight pad area and began to attack him.

As the two inmates were fighting, an officer in the wall tower witnessed inmates begin to move toward the fight. Fearing for the safety of the officers on the ground, the officer fired chemical

agents into the yard. The chemical agents were effective and the inmates moved away from the fight and were directed up against the wall in the yard.

The two inmates continued to fight. An officer on the ground administered OC Spray to the two inmates. It had the desired effect and they stopped fighting.

The inmate who was involved in the first fight, was treated by medical staff for minor injuries and was placed in a Special Housing Unit. The inmate that was attacked in the weight area sustained no injuries.

The other three inmates involved all refused medical attention. They were returned and locked in their cells pending disciplinary charges.

No staff were injured in the incident.

“I would like to commend all of the officers involved in this incident for their quick actions to stop a potentially dangerous situation for occurring. The decision to utilize chemical agents certainly played an important role in stopping more inmates from getting involved in the three fights that occurred. It not only protected staff from having to be physically involved, but protected other inmates in the yard from being injured. These type of incidents are continuing to occur at an alarming rate at Wende and other prisons across the state. Unfortunately they will continue until a disciplinary systems exists that penalizes inmates for their violent behavior.” – stated Mark Deburgomaster, Western Region Vice President.