

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INCIDENT REVIEW SUMMARY

Introduction

This review focused on the circumstances of an assault of one offender by five other offenders at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility (CNSCF). The incident occurred on June 21 at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Considerations

The review considered the following:

- The events leading up to the incident
- The actions of offenders during the incident
- The actions taken in response to the incident
- Whether policies and procedures were followed

Issue

On June 21, 2014, five offenders, armed with make-shift weapons, assaulted another offender.

Facts

- Following the assault, CNSCF was locked down to facilitate an emergency response as per normal operating procedures.
- Halifax Regional Police and Emergency Health Services attended the scene of the assault.
- The victim of the assault was taken to hospital by ambulance, admitted and treated for multiple lacerations. He was returned to CNSCF on June 25, 2014.

Findings

- Staff responded quickly and appropriately to the medical emergency.
- Policy and procedures were followed.
- One Standard Operating Procedure, regarding the number of offenders permitted in a cell, was not followed. Only those offenders assigned to the cell are permitted to be in it at any given time.

Follow-up actions

- Charges of Attempted Murder, Aggravated Assault, and Possession of a Weapon for a Dangerous Purpose were laid against the five offenders involved. They are scheduled to appear in court on September 16, 2014.
- All staff involved have reviewed the incident and discussed the steps taken to improve responses to similar incidents in the future. This is a standard practice after every incident that occurs in the facility
- Supervisors have been directed to ensure Standard Operating Procedures are reviewed, enforced and adhered to at all times. The importance of continued vigilance with respect to contraband, has also been reinforced.