



AROUND THE STATE: FIRE AT LMF; MPF INCIDENT EMPHASIZES LEVEL PROBLEMS

The young second-shift officers at LMF kept their cool during a fire and evacuation April 11.

The fire broke out in the Birch Unit at about 7 p.m. after an inmate jiggled wires in an electrical outlet, officers say. He was removed from the cell. His mattress was charred, and smoke damaged the cell. The prisoner is still receiving outside medical care.

Three LMF officers suffered smoke inhalation and were treated at hospitals. They were treated and released, and all have returned to work.

The second-shift staff received praise from supervisors and the responding fire department for their professionalism, teamwork and quick action throughout the emergency. About half of LMF second-shift officers have fewer than three years in. *Congratulations, second shift. You performed well when tested.*

Other recent events at LMF:

4/7 – inmate fight while returning

from big yard. One weapon. No serious injuries. Taser deployed. Three sent to segregation.

4/9 – inmate fight while returning from chow. Inmate slashed in the face with weapon crafted from a razor. Taser deployed. Three sent to segregation.

4/10 – inmate fight with weapon in Maple Unit. Three sent to segregation.

Michigan's Level 1 prisons have become so dangerous, one convict rushed the perimeter fence five hours after arriving at MPF so he would be shipped out to a higher level facility.

It happened at about 10 p.m. April 10. The inmate ran to the fence and shook it. He told staff he would try anything except violence to get out of Pugsley. The prisoner got his wish – he's in segregation at Brooks.

MPF officers say it's not uncommon for an inmate who just arrived at

the facility to say he's afraid to enter a housing unit and would rather be in segregation.

Other recent events at MPF:

4/7 – Three to four inmates wearing masks attack an inmate. A total of seven weapons were found.

4/16 – Inmate slashed ear-to-ear. Slashed while on a walkway. Movement has since been restricted on the walkway. Also, an 11.5 in. typewriter rod whittled into a shank and shears were found.

4/17 – Another 11.5 in. typewriter rod found.

An SMT inmate was slashed on the side of the face with a razor blade March 31.

He was attacked while on a walkway and was transported to a hospital by ambulance. His injuries required surgery. He was transferred to another prison.

DEPARTMENT CRACKS DOWN ON PHOTOS

KYI readers might notice fewer weapon photos published in future editions thanks to a Department memo.

In an April 8 email, a Department administrator takes note of "seeing our evidence photographs in a local union newsletter" and instructs wardens to stop sending photos to staff by email. Now photos must be shared with staff some other way.

In the past, found weapons and prison activity were discussed at pre-shift meetings, but the Depart-

ment eliminated those to save money.

We all know there is contraband in the prisons, and it's our job to find it.

MCO will stand firm in our commitment to raising public awareness of the dangers corrections officers face. Because a picture is worth 1,000 words, weapons photos were an easy way to do that.

We will continue to tell the public about the true nature of your job and work environment.

IN MEMORIAM:

CYNTHIA BRIGGS

TCF Corrections Officer Cynthia Briggs, 49, passed away unexpectedly on April 6.

Officer Briggs was a 12 year veteran of the MDOC, an MCO shift steward and a veteran of the United States Marine Corp, and she is survived by her husband and two children.

Officer Briggs will be greatly missed by her family, friends and coworkers.

Please join us in wishing peace for Briggs' family.

