



AROUND THE STATE: SAGINAW INMATE KILLED; ICF INMATES SHIELD THEMSELVES FROM TASERS; FIGHTS SHAKE UP MUSKEGON

A Saginaw inmate is suspected of killing his bunkmate, who was found dead in bed Wednesday morning.

It happened in 600 unit, a Level IV. Michigan State Police are investigating.

The prisoner accused in the killing is serving a life sentence for murder. He has been transferred to ICF. The victim was serving 25-50 years for criminal sexual conduct.

There were two stabbings in another Level IV unit at SRF Wednesday.

Tasers had no effect on two ICF inmates who were wearing several layers of clothes.

The two Level V inmates started fighting during yard time Wednesday. They didn't respond to orders to stop. One officer drew his ECD, but when he pulled the trigger, the Taser didn't fire. Other officers deployed their ECDs, but the inmates had on several layers of clothing and weren't fazed.

When one inmate slammed the other man's head into the concrete, the tower officer fired a warning shot. The prisoners continued to punch each other in the head and neck. Staff eventually quelled the fight.

No staff were injured.

The ECD that failed to fire underscores the importance of adequate staffing. Sometimes Tasers are viewed as a cure-all, but no tool can replace staff.

Also, fewer staff were on the ground because the tower is no longer a dedicated position.

Also at ICF:

10/29 – prisoner-on-prisoner stabbing with homemade weapon on unit 3 yard. The assailant stabbed the victim several times in the head and neck. No serious injuries.

Another inmate kicked at staff as he was being escorted to a dayroom. No injuries were reported.

10/28 – prisoner-on-prisoner assault with razor blade in shower.

Inmate food service workers at Muskegon refused to prepare breakfast Tuesday morning.

The prisoners were upset after they were mistakenly notified that their pay would be cut by about 50 percent. The captain promised the issue would be resolved later in the day, and the inmates decided to work. Breakfast was delayed about 40 minutes.

There had been a miscommunication about whose pay would be reduced. The

pay cut only affects new prisoner food service workers.

Also at MCF:

- Three Aramark employees at MCF were found to have criminal records and have not been at work. One of them had worked at the facility since the food service contract began nearly a year ago. One of them resolved their issue somehow and has returned to work.

- Fights have kept Muskegon staff busy and segregation at capacity.

Three inmates went to seg Tuesday after a fight in unit 3, a Level II.

Chemical agents were deployed, which required evacuation from the unit.

On Oct. 25, there were at least four prisoner fights. Officers report lunch breaks were delayed as much as seven hours due to the activity.

Segregation has been full. One inmate went to seg on Oct. 24 for protection. He was moved out three days later to make space.

About 10 shanks and several tattoo guns were found in a shakedown at SLF last week. Nine inmates were transferred after the shakedown. A few threatening behavior tickets were also written.



BUSY ON ELECTION DAY? VOTE ABSENTEE

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4 and for those who can't make it to the

polls, absentee ballots are still an option.

If you claim you are expecting to be out of town or have another state-approved reason to not be able to make it

to the polls, you can request an absentee ballot at your local clerk's office. Requests to have an absentee ballot mailed must be received by your local clerk no later than 2 p.m. Saturday (tomorrow).

MCO recommends you personally go to your clerk's office, fill out your ballot on the spot, and return it to the clerk to ensure your vote is cast.

More details and a full list of ap-

proved reasons for absentee voting can be found at www.michigan.gov/sos.

On the left column click "Elections in Michigan," subheading "Information for Voters," subheading "Obtaining an absent voter ballot."

For MCO's endorsements, see web posts and the Fall 2014 MCO Report available at mco-seiu.org.