



AROUND THE STATE: GANG FIGHTS RATTLE SLF, MBP, ICF

About 50 inmates have been involved in gang-related fights at St. Louis over the past week.

The Level IV prison was placed on lock down Monday. Twenty inmates have been transferred and others have been placed in segregation. The lock-down remains in effect.

The fights stem from two gangs trying to control the use of phones and JPay machines, which allow inmates to send emails and purchase store goods.

The skirmishes started April 12 in Unit 5. Officers broke up the dispute.

On Sunday, nearly 20 inmates in Unit 6, the segregation step-down unit, were involved in fights at meal times.

The next day, 15 Unit 2 inmates were involved in yard fights. Officers found weapons in the area. More prisoners took part in additional fights that day, prompting the lock down.

No staff injuries have been reported.

Corrections officers handled the situation well, MDOC spokesman Chris Gautz told the Detroit News.

"It's a real testament to their professionalism and their ability to do the job they're trained to do," Gautz said.

A Marquette inmate assaulted two officers April 14 as he was walking out of his cell.

The prisoner was housed in the Level V G-block.

Officers were moving the prisoner to another cell, but he didn't want to go. He smashed his TV and punched

one CO in the side of head and bit his leg, an officer said. The prisoner ran. Another CO chased him and suffered minor injuries while trying to restrain him.

This prisoner had four previous convictions for staff assault. Officers believe he should have been in segregation instead of a general population housing unit.

Also that day, six inmates were involved in gang-related yard fights. One of the prisoners had a weapon.

The Level V units were locked down due to the fights.

Several gang-related fights have broken out at ICF over the past week.

COs responded to three fights and assaults April 13. The first was on the Unit 3 (Level V) yard. About an hour later on the Unit 4 (Level V) yard, an inmate stabbed another prisoner several times with a 6-in. piece of metal. A tower officer fired a warning shot, and the prisoners stopped fighting. Later that day, a Unit 5 inmate (Level V) slashed another prisoner with a weapon.

On April 12, two inmates punched another prisoner in Unit 4.

What started as a conflict between two Thumb inmates grew as three more inmates joined in a fight Monday.

The altercation started between two prisoners in the Burns Unit, which is Level II. Two more prisoners jumped in, and an officer separated them. A

RUO/CMUO UPDATE

The Michigan Supreme Court will take up MCO's challenge of the RUO/CMUO abolishments. No hearing date has been scheduled.

MCO has been fighting the abolishments since 2012, first through the Civil Service Commission and now through the courts. [See a timeline of our past actions.](#)

We'll continue to keep members updated.

fifth inmate approached and started assaulting one of the inmates.

During the commotion, dozens of inmates in the unit came out of their cells to watch. The unit was locked down.

Only two officers were assigned to this unit at the time of the fights.

Great job to the officers who responded to these dangerous situations over the past week. Stories like these are why MCO says corrections officers have Michigan's toughest job. Thank you, members, for your professional service to keep prisoners and the public safe.

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