

## Media Release

April 15, 2016  
For Immediate Release

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Andrew D. Nystrom, Communications Director  
402-479-5713; [andrew.nystrom@nebraska.gov](mailto:andrew.nystrom@nebraska.gov)

---

### **Nebraska Department of Correctional Services staff members assaulted**

**LINCOLN, Neb.** – The safety of our teammates is a primary area of focus for the entire agency,” Scott Frakes, NDCS director, said. This mindset isn’t just in effect inside the facilities, but also in the way our investigators gather evidence; the way our training staff applies lessons learned from each incident to their curriculum; and the way our mental health staff provides treatment. These are just a few examples among many others.

Providing programming, treatment and the nature of incarceration itself involves risk that our NDCS teammates consciously undertake every day to make Nebraska safer,” Frakes said. We will continue to seek ways reduce the risk to staff as much as possible through tactics, techniques and procedures that adapt to a dynamic environment,” Frakes said.

#### **Nebraska State Penitentiary – April 14, 2016**

Two Nebraska Department of Correctional Services staff members were assaulted by two inmates yesterday, April 14, 2016.

The incident began when an NDCS case manager observed three inmates involved in a physical altercation. When the staff member intervened, an inmate struck the case manager cutting his forehead which required several stitches to close the wound. During this time, a correctional officer responding to the disturbance was struck by another inmate leaving the officer with a laceration under his eye. A third staff member, responding to the incident, injured his knee and hand subduing the inmates and bringing the incident to a close. All of the staff members were transported to a local hospital for the treatment of non-life-threatening injuries and released.

The names of the staff members and inmates will not be released and an investigation is underway. However, the inmates involved were serving sentences for crimes including theft, robbery, possession of a controlled substance and robbery and were designated as habitual criminals.

#### **Tecumseh State Correctional Institute – April 15, 2016**

Two Nebraska Department of Correctional Services staff members were assaulted by two inmates today, April 15, 2016.

The incident began when a group of inmates were returning to their housing unit from a religious service when two of the inmates attacked, unprovoked, two correctional staff members. Nearby

officers assisted the targets of the attacks with subduing the inmates using oleoresin capsicum (pepper spray) and brought the incident to a close.

Both staff members were transported to an outside medical facility for treatment and one of the NDCS members was taken to Bryan West Hospital in Lincoln for further treatment.

The names of the staff members and inmates will not be released and an investigation is underway. However, the inmates involved were serving sentences for crimes including robbery and first degree murder.

The units at NSP and TSCI that the above assaults took place in are currently on a lockdown status pending investigation of the incident by NDCS investigators. Lockdown simply means all unnecessary inmate movement within that particular unit is on-hold until the investigation is complete.

Assault on Nebraska Department of Correctional Services staff will not be tolerated. As always, NDCS will investigate the incident and submit our findings to the local district attorney for prosecution.