



News Release

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

April 29, 2015

For more information: Crystal Archdeacon, 503-378-2678, Crystal.L.Archdeacon@doc.state.or.us
Betty Bernt, 503-945-9426, Betty.A.Bernt@doc.state.or.us

Suspicious powder received at Oregon State Penitentiary determined not hazardous

Emergency responders determined that a white powdery substance received Monday afternoon in an envelope at the Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP) mail room was not hazardous.

On April 29 at 1:05 p.m., the OSP mail room reported receiving the envelope with the unknown substance. The mail room area was secured. The Oregon State Police Hazardous Materials Unit, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Salem Fire and Rescue responded to evaluate the powder for any hazardous substances.

The mail room is located in a separate building on the grounds of OSP. One staff member had direct exposure and was taken to Salem Hospital. One other staff member was in the mail room at the time the substance was found, but had no direct contact. The institution is operating as normal.

OSP is a maximum-security prison in Salem that houses over 2,000 male inmates. OSP is surrounded by a 25-foot-high wall with 10 towers. The facility has multiple special housing units including death row, disciplinary segregation, behavioral health, intermediate care housing, and an infirmary (with hospice) with 24-hour nursing care. OSP participates in prison industries with Oregon Corrections Enterprises including the furniture factory, laundry, metal shop, and contact center. It provides a range of correctional programs and services including education, work-based education, inmate work crews, and pre-release services. OSP was established in 1866 and, until 1959, was Oregon's only prison.

####