



*Los Angeles County*  
**Sheriff's Department**

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## News Release

### Major Inmate Disturbance - Pitchess Detention Center –South Facility

On Sunday, August 22, 2010 at approximately 2:30 PM, a Major Inmate Disturbance occurred at a Los Angeles County jail facility, the Pitchess Detention Center - South Facility, 29330 The Old Road, Castaic, California.

Over 200 inmates from several barracks suddenly began throwing rocks and other debris at sheriff's deputies in what appeared to be a coordinated effort. Some of the inmates then began assaulting each another and barricaded themselves within the barracks using picnic tables and bunks. They vandalized the medium-security facility, including breaking the windows. They armed themselves with jail-made weapons including shanks (inmate-made cutting and stabbing weapons) made from glass from the broken windows and broken equipment. Six barracks housing a total of about 400 inmates were affected by the incident.

Immediately after the disturbance began, deputies began deploying less than lethal weapons such as pepper balls and sting balls to cease the assaults. Emergency Response Teams from surrounding Pitchess Detention Center jail facilities responded to assist PDC-South Facility personnel. Sheriff's Special Enforcement Bureau, Emergency Services Detail, Parks Bureau, Santa Clarita Valley Station, and Aero Bureau also responded as a precautionary measure, and officers from the California Highway Patrol assisted with traffic control. By about 4:00PM, full compliance had been regained and sheriff's personnel began a methodical search of the facility and the over 1,100 inmates housed there.

Two inmates were transported to a local hospital, one for shortness of breath and the other for a possible seizure. Ten inmates were later transported to the USC+LCMC medical center for treatment of lacerations and bruises, and eight inmates were treated for minor injuries by Sheriff's Medical Services nurses. The inmate injuries were considered minor to moderate and no inmates were hospitalized. A significant number of the inmates sustained their injuries when they cut themselves trying to make shanks out of broken window glass. No inmates escaped.

Two deputies received minor injuries, one had a minor cut and another had a sprained ankle. Some of the barracks are not being used pending repairs, while the facility has otherwise resumed normal operations. Investigators from Sheriff's Operation Safe Jails are investigating the reason for this disturbance. Investigators are being identified and moved to maximum security facilities.

