



Spokane County
— Sheriff —
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News Release

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Geiger Escape Thwarted, Inmates Moved

Four Geiger Corrections Center inmates have been moved to the more-secure Spokane County Jail after workers at the West Plains facility discovered and thwarted a plot to escape.

Detention Services Commander John McGrath said Wednesday that Geiger staff members developed information that an inmate worker at the site had manufactured a tool to remove security bolts on window screens in the housing barracks.

The four inmates planned to remove the security screen at night and lower themselves to the ground using rope made from bed linens. Once on the ground, they planned to use a mattress to cover razor wire on top of the security fence so the four could climb over and escape.

McGrath said a getaway vehicle was mentioned in the suspects' plan, but no known date for the escape was determined. The homemade wrench was located and seized.

After the participants were removed from the center, a search was conducted that revealed no compromised security fixtures or any more items of contraband.

Geiger Corrections is a World War II-era building that was acquired and modified by Spokane County in 1979 to be a work release facility. The sheriff's office adopted operations there in 2008 and has been using it to house overflow inmates from the downtown Spokane County Jail.

Geiger now houses minimum and medium-security inmates to relieve overcrowding in the jail, a purpose for which it was never intended.

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