

KRCC in lockdown after inmate stabbed night before

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Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre remained in partial lockdown Friday following the stabbing of an inmate the night before.

A union official also said an inmate threatened a guard with a “hit” in an unrelated incident, but that could not be confirmed by RCMP.

Kamloops RCMP acting Staff Sgt. Art Babin said an inmate was brought to Royal Inland Hospital about 4 p.m. on Thursday with what turned out to be non-life threatening wounds. He was returned to KRCC on Friday.

A suspect caught on video surveillance was arrested and is being held in segregation.

Babin said charges are expected following a report to Crown counsel.

An official with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General said the partial lockdown was expected to be lifted late Friday. The provincial jail is conducting an operational review in light of the event.

Brent Merchant, assistant deputy minister for corrections, said in a statement emailed to The Daily News that KRCC can also hand out its own penalties.

“Penalties imposed can range from reprimands to confinement in a segregation cell for up to 30 days and or up to 60 days loss of earned remission for time served.”

The lockdown was done to preserve the scene and ensure safety for others at the prison, the ministry said.

Dean Purdy, a representative of B.C. Government and Service Employees Union, said KRCC and other provincial jails are dangerously overcrowded, pushed to more than double the number of inmates for which institutions were designed.

“It’s another incident in a long line of incidents, whether at KRCC or other jails,” Purdy said.

Assaults have occurred among inmates and also on guards, Purdy said.