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## Prisoners moved after riot controlled, officials brief media

By JEFFREY McMURRAY, Associated Press

BURGIN, Ky. — Rioting inmates started several fires at a central Ky. prison, and damage to several buildings was so extensive that officials have to bus some of the facility's 1,200 prisoners elsewhere, police said Saturday.

State police Lt. David Jude said firefighters had extinguished the blazes set at the medium-security Northpoint Training Center in a rural area 30 miles south of Lexington.

Buses started to transport the first prisoners shortly after 6 a.m., but it wasn't immediately known where they were going and whether all the inmates would have to be moved.

"To me it would seem like a pretty daunting task to move that many inmates suddenly from one place," Jude said.

Jude said the prisoners housed at Northpoint were still being kept early Saturday in an outdoor courtyard surrounded by prison guards and with police forming a perimeter around the outside of the facility to make sure none escaped.

"Everything seems to be at a calm," Jude said. "They're sitting down, kind of going with the program right now."

Portable toilets were brought in, and Jude said he believed much of the food supply was lost. The kitchen and canteen were among the buildings set ablaze, along with a medical center, general purpose building and some damage to the living quarters.

"There are several buildings there at the front that are going to be a total loss," Jude said.

Jude said he expected there would be little information released Saturday about a possible cause of the rioting, which began around 6:30 p.m. Friday.

Several prisoners were taken to the hospital with minor injuries, though no police or prison staff were hurt, Jude said.

Prison spokeswoman Mendolyn Cochran said earlier Friday that the prison had been on lockdown since Tuesday, when one group of inmates assaulted two others, The Advocate-Messenger of Danville reported. Later Friday, some inmates started setting fires in trash cans, she said.

Officers in riot gear rushed the prisoners with tear gas about 9 p.m., and all the inmates were subdued in less than two hours, authorities said.

Northpoint has more than 1,100 general population inmates housed in six open-bay dormitories, according to its Web site. Another 60 special management inmates are housed in single cells in a separate structure, and 40 minimum-security inmates are housed in another separate structure.

It opened in 1983 and has a staff of 285.