

[Sign In](#) | [Register now](#)

boston.com

Local Search Site Search

GO

Safari Power Saver
Click to Start Flash Plug-in



DELICIOUS MEETS NUTRITIOUS



[HOME](#) [TODAY'S GLOBE](#) [NEWS](#) [BUSINESS](#) [SPORTS](#) [LIFESTYLE](#) [A&E](#) [THINGS TO DO](#) [TRAVEL](#) [CARS](#) [JOBS](#) [HOMES](#)

[Local](#) [National](#) [World](#) [Politics](#) [Business](#) [Education](#) [Health](#) [Science](#) [Green](#) [Obituaries](#) [Special reports](#) [Traffic](#) [Weather](#) [Lottery](#)

BOSTON & BEYOND. NOW.

METRODESK



[< Back to front page](#)

Text size - +

Evacuated Middlesex inmates to remain in other jails for now

July 6, 2009 01:52 PM

[E-mail](#) | [Link](#) | [Comments \(\)](#)



(Globe photo/Maisie Crow)

Officers move through the flooded floors of the Middlesex County Jail in Cambridge on Sunday.

By Jonathan Saltzman, Globe Staff

Some 193 detainees who were evacuated Sunday from the overcrowded Middlesex Jail after several prisoners flooded the facility will probably not be returning until tomorrow at the earliest, a spokesman for Sheriff James V. DiPaola said today.

The spokesman, Michael Hartigan, said authorities were still working to restore electricity at the Cambridge jail, which had to be shut off after detainees allegedly began smashing sprinkler heads and tearing down pipes around 11:30 a.m. Sunday. The flooding began on

On The Beat

Columnist **Shirley Leung** says Boston mayor-elect Martin J. Walsh should focus on middle-class housing. [Read more](#)



Recent stories from the MetroDesk

- Suspicious package used in East Bridgewater bank robbery
- Accused MGH attacker hears voices, sent for psych evaluation
- New MCAS analysis tracks progress from one grade to next
- Fresh breath to the end
- Candidates spar -- gently -- in Senate debate

loading video...
(please wait a moment)

Requires Adobe Flash Player

the 18th floor of the high-rise building on Thorndike Street and drenched every floor down to the lobby.

Authorities quickly put 193 of the jail's most-dangerous detainees on buses and transported them to the Middlesex House of Correction in Billerica and to jails in Essex, Norfolk, Plymouth, and Suffolk counties, Hartigan said. Some 203 other detainees remained at the Cambridge jail.

"As of right now, we don't have a time line for their return," Hartigan said of the detainees who were evacuated. "In all likelihood, it won't be today."

He said authorities were still mopping up water and working with NStar to restore power. The jail is currently running on auxiliary power provided by emergency generators.

The vandalism stemmed from fears of swine flu, according to Hartigan. On June 30, a detainee was taken to Massachusetts General Hospital complaining of flu-like symptoms. The detainee was treated and told in discharge papers that he most likely had H1N1 influenza, or swine flu. Upon his return to the jail, he was quarantined and treated with Tamiflu and over-the-counter medicine.

On Saturday, 10 more inmates exhibited flu-like symptoms and were moved to a quarantine unit and also treated with Tamiflu. Two correction officers were also diagnosed with flu.


The next day, inmates who were agitated by the flu outbreak ``started acting out, throwing paper and trash," and then tore down sprinkler heads and pipes, DiPaola said during a news conference Sunday.

DiPaola and several lawyers and advocates for prisoners' rights say the underlying problem is overcrowding at the jail.

The facility was built for 161 people but has long exceeded that. Last September, it held 415 detainees, nearly 2 1/2 times its capacity, according to the most recent state Department of Correction report on overcrowding at county jails.


As a result of overcrowding, DiPaola has converted the jail's visiting room, red-brick chapel, indoor gym, and even an occasional hallway into sleeping areas, according to a tour he gave a Globe reporter last year. He has been lobbying the state to build a new jail.

``The fact of the matter is that the jails are brutally overcrowded in Middlesex County," said David W. White Jr., a Boston lawyer. He headed a Massachusetts Bar Association task force that recently recommended the state get rid of some minimum mandatory drug sentences that many critics say have caused massive overcrowding at jails and prisons throughout the state.



Boston.com
Like

147,047 people like Boston.com.




Facebook social plugin


Follow @BostonDotCom 169K followers

Follow @GlobeMetro 45K followers


Features




Inside Scoop
The story behind the story




Lives
Dispatches from the death beat



Teddy's Take
The photo of the day



The Quad
What's up at area colleges



Viewpoints
Quote them on it

Editor's Choice



Dobbelle resigns from Westfield State presidency
Accused of lavish and improper spending, college head Evan Dobbelle had sought settlement; he will continue his defamation suit.



Harvard Law outsider became Tea Party hero
In a liberal bastion, a young Ted Cruz played a familiar role.

- MORE**
- Mayor-elect Walsh may spur late T hours
 - 'Snowplow parents' overly involved in college students' lives
 - Group explores 2024 Olympic bid for Boston
 - Boston, courts coming to aid of veterans

Get Updates

My Yahoo

RSS Feeds

• Learn about RSS

Comment Permalink E-mail ShareThis

PREVIOUS STORY

Salem mother pleads not guilty to withholding son's cancer treatment

M FRONT PAGE

NEXT STORY

Woman hit by Needham commuter train

Loading comments...

Archives

Select a month ▾

LOCAL RESOURCES

- [Boston crime blog](#)
- [Brookline crime blog](#)
- [Mass. DOT traffic cameras](#)
- [Mass. DOT road conditions](#)
- [MBTA service alerts](#)
- [National Weather Service at Taunton](#)
- [Massachusetts sex offenders](#)
- [Boston Public Schools blog](#)
- [Massachusetts abandoned property](#)
- [Search for MCAS results](#)

LOCAL BLOGS

BOSTON AREA

[Universal Hub](#)

A collection of writing from hundreds of Boston-area bloggers.

[The Chinatown Blog](#)

Stories and events related to Boston's Chinatown and the Asian American community in Massachusetts

[CommonWealth Magazine](#)

Politics, ideas, and civic life in Massachusetts

[Red Mass Group](#)

News and commentary about Massachusetts and beyond

[Blue Mass Group](#)

Politics in Massachusetts and around the nation

[Boston 1775](#)

History, analysis, and unabashed gossip about the start of the American Revolution.

COLLEGE NEWSPAPER SITES

[The 1851 Chronicle](#)

The official student-run newspaper of Lasell College

[The Berkeley Beacon](#)

The weekly student newspaper at Emerson College

[The Daily Collegian](#)

The student newspaper of UMass-Amherst.

[The Daily Free Press](#)

The independent student newspaper at Boston University

[The Harvard Crimson](#)

The nation's oldest continuously published daily college newspaper.

[The Heights](#)

The independent student newspaper of Boston College

[The Huntington News](#)

The independent student newspaper of Northeastern University

The Suffolk Journal

Suffolk University's student-run newspaper

The Tech

MIT's oldest and largest newspaper

The Tufts Daily

The independent student newspaper of Tufts University

[Home](#) | [Today's Globe](#) | [News](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Lifestyle](#) | [A&E](#) | [Things to Do](#) | [Travel](#) | [Cars](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Local Search](#)

[CONTACT BOSTON.COM](#) | [Help](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Work here](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Your Ad Choices](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Mobile](#) | [RSS feeds](#) | [Sitemap](#)

[CONTACT THE BOSTON GLOBE](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Manage your subscription](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Boston Globe Insiders](#) | [The Boston Globe Gallery](#) | © 2014 Boston Globe Media Partners, LLC
