

500 Inmates Smash Prison

WALPOLE (Mass.) — (UPI) — Hundreds of inmates roamed through Walpole State Prison for several hours during the night, setting fires, smashing windows and destroying furniture before being driven back to their cells early today with tear gas.

One guard and one inmate were injured.

"Things are now secure," State Corrections Commissioner John O. Boone told newsmen at 4 a.m. after he and Superintendent Robert Donnelly had met with some of the prisoners.

As many as 500 inmates left their cells, setting fires throughout the prison and causing heavy damage to the auditorium and library after a black inmate was stabbed about 9 p.m.

"The damage is substantial," said Boone. Guards will comb the prison latter today in a weapons shake-down.

Twenty-six guards from the Norfolk prison colony, a mile away, were sent to the prison when the trouble broke out.

Donnelly said "there was extensive use of tear gas."

The injured guard was hit in the eye with flying glass.

A spokesman said the disturbance apparently started when inmate Ronald Stokes was walking through a cellblock without a shirt. A guard told him to put on a shirt, but Stokes told the officer he had been stabbed.

Stokes was admitted to Massachusetts General Hospital in "fair and stable condition" with a single stab wound.