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# Prison riot: Corrections Victoria regains control of Melbourne Remand Centre after police storm facility

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PHOTO: A wall was knocked down, fires were lit and windows were smashed during the riot. (AAP: Seven News Melbourne)

## Corrections Victoria has regained control of the Metropolitan Remand Centre in Melbourne's west, after a riot that started around noon yesterday ended overnight.

Heavily armed police carrying shields stormed the maximum security prison around 3:00am in a bid to quell the rioting prisoners.

In a statement, Corrections Victoria said it was a difficult operation conducted under the cover of darkness, to protect prison staff, Victoria Police and prisoners.

Several prisoners were hurt in the riot and were treated by medical staff.

A wall was knocked down, fires were lit and windows were smashed during the riot, involving up to 300 inmates, some of who covered their faces and carried sticks.

The riot is believed to have been sparked by the imposition of a smoking ban which comes into effect today at the remand centre at Ravenhall.

Two staff members suffered minor injuries but "these were not as a direct result of interaction with prisoners" the department said in a statement.



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**PHOTO:** [Police make their way to the entrance of the Metropolitan Remand Centre in Ravenhall.](#) (Audience submitted: Patrick Herve)

About 200 staff were evacuated from the facility and [all of the state's prisons went into lockdown as a precaution.](#)

A large number of prisoners have been transferred to other facilities as authorities assess the damage to the prison.

Corrections Victoria will hold an internal review to the handling of the riot and Victoria Police is also investigating.

Corrections Minister Wade Noonan is expected to provide an update on the situation later this morning.

He praised prison staff, police and emergency workers for their "bravery in a difficult and dangerous situation," he said.

"I want to assure the Victorian people there will be a thorough investigation into what caused this riot, how this major security breach happened and the response to it," he said in a statement.

Corrections Commissioner Jan Shuard has promised a wide-ranging review.

"If criminal acts have occurred within our prison that would be a matter for Victoria Police to pursue any charges," she said.

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Commissioner Shuard said authorities would have a close look at how they responded to the prisoners' actions.



**PHOTO:** [Police used armoured vehicles at the scene of the riot.](#) (ABC News: Peta Carlyon)

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