



SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

Media Release

April 4, 2017

This morning, the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) was made aware that two Kootenai County inmates housed at the Yakima County Correctional Center, located in Yakima, Washington, had escaped from custody.

The inmates are Steven Douglas Roche and Chad Everett Tipton. Roche is 31 years old with a last known address in Spokane, Washington. He was being held on charges of Burglary and Grand Theft.

Tipton is also 31 years old with a last known address in Post Falls, Idaho. Tipton was being held on charges of Assault with a Firearm, Aggravated Battery, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, and Resisting Arrest.

Yakima officials notified KCSO that at approximately 4:00am this morning, Yakima County Corrections Officers conducted a head count at the Yakima County Correctional Center and discovered two inmates were unaccounted for. Their press release indicates, "the previous head count/ wrist band check on 4-3-2017 at 7:00pm indicated all inmates were present. A search of the facility found a door leading from an inside recreational yard, to the outside, was found unsecured. It is unknown at this time when the door was unsecured, or by whom. All indications are the door would have had to be left unsecure by a staff member who had access to facility keys. In addition an internal gate was found open. Although pry marks were found on the outside of the door it is not believed that was the method of entry."

Local law enforcement is attempting to notify Tipton's victim(s).

Law enforcement agencies in Yakima were notified and searched the area unsuccessfully.

Kootenai County Jail houses inmates in other facilities in North Idaho and Washington due to current overcrowded conditions. Tipton and Roche are two (2) of 37 inmates housed in Yakima today.

Photographs are attached to this release.

Although it is not known if Roche or Tipton have access to weapons at this time, they should be considered dangerous. Contact 911 if you have information on their location, or if you see either of them.

Ben Wolfinger, Sheriff
By: Captain Andy Boyle

