

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Corrections Department

Bill Richardson, Governor
Joe R. Williams,
Secretary of Corrections

Robert A. Ulibarri, Warden
Brian Reshetnik, Deputy Warden
Christine Vallejos, Deputy Warden

Central New Mexico Correctional Facility
1525 Morris Road,
Los Lunas, N.M. 87031
Phone: (505) 865-1622
Fax Number: (505) 866-8510

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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Brian Reshetnik (Los Lunas) 505-865-2336
Tia Bland (Santa Fe) 505-690-8558

INMATE WALKS AWAY FROM LEVEL I MINIMUM SECURITY PRISON AT THE CENTRAL NEW MEXICO CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

LOS LUNAS, NM – On Tuesday, April 8, 2008, between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m., inmate Toby Ernest Romero, (DOB 07/19/1975), walked away from the Central New Mexico Correctional Facility - Level I minimum security prison. The New Mexico Corrections Department is investigating how this happened.

Toby Romero is from Valencia County and authorities believe he may still be in the Los Lunas area . He is serving 2.5 years for possession of a controlled substance by a felon, receiving/transferring a stolen motor vehicle, and criminal damage to property over \$1000 dollars.

Inmate Romero was classified as a Level I minimum security inmate, which is the lowest security level; he has been serving his sentence since January 2, 2008, and has been housed at the Level I facility since March 7, 2008.

City, county, and state law enforcement agencies, as well as Probation and Parole in the Los Lunas area, have been notified and will assist the Corrections Department in apprehending the fugitive.

The Central New Mexico Correctional Facility will remain on lockdown until the preliminary investigation is complete. Lock-down means inmates are confined to their housing unit.

The Central New Mexico Correctional Facility Complex is a multi-correctional complex housing approximately 1300 inmates classified in Levels one, two, three, four, and interim-level six.

A photo of Toby Romero is available on the Corrections Department Web site: www.corrections.state.nm.us. Click on offender information/offender search. Inmate Romero's NMCD number is 67882.

Tia Bland
Public Information Officer
New Mexico Corrections Department
4337 State Road 14
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502