

Inmates at county jail swallow razor blades

By Ralph Bartholdt

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Two inmates at the Benewah County Jail swallowed razorblades in separate incidents over a three-week period.

The two men, both in their 20s swallowed razor blades that came with their shaving supplies and were taken to the community hospital.

Christopher Cox, 24, and Travis A. Burch, 22, suffered no severe side effects and were later released.

One was sent back to jail and the other was released on his own recognizance to appear at a court hearing.

Three weeks ago, Christopher Cox, 24, was charged for the March 11 offense of resisting and obstructing an officer.

He told jailers that he had swallowed a razor blade from his shaving kit, and was ushered to the hospital's emergency room.

Last week inmate Travis A. Burch followed suit.

The 22-year-old pleaded guilty to felony assault after shooting at his girlfriend and spraying bullets through his home with an assault rifle.

He was out of jail awaiting an April 17 sentencing when he was arrested for a probation violation.

After being booked, he swallowed a razor and was ushered to the county hospital. He was sent back to jail after an X-Ray.

"They told us to take him back and watch for any bleeding," said jail commander Cindy Schultz. "We did take him back this morning for another picture and have to take him back tomorrow and check him again."

Sheriff Robert Kirts said he hasn't heard of any other facility in the state where inmates eat razors.

"They take their razor and break it apart and swallow it," the sheriff said.

The medical costs are paid by the county's indigent fund.

Jailer Lyle Miller said the department hasn't made any policy changes as a result of the incidents.

"Not at this time," he said. "We do it the same as any other jails do."

"It's one of those things. Nobody else seems to have problems with it."

In her 11 years as a jailer Mrs. Schultz has dealt with two attempted hangings, but no one has eaten their Schicks.

"I've never seen someone swallow a razor," she said. "Very few of them do that kind of stuff."

