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## ICE detainee escapes from Essex County jail, officials say

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Multiple law enforcement agencies are searching for a man who escaped Friday from the Essex County jail in Newark, officials said.

Luis Cordon-Guzman, 31, had been detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, according to agency spokesman Adrian Smith.

It was not immediately clear how he was able to leave the Essex County Correctional Facility, which houses ICE detainees.

Cordon-Guzman had been deported April 24, 2019, but he re-entered the country illegally at some point, Smith said. He is a Guatemalan citizen.

According to court records, Cordon-Guzman was arrested March 16 by Trenton police. Smith said his arrest led to “multiple pending felony charges,” but he did not provide the charges. Court records indicate Cordon-Guzman was charged with third-degree burglary and simple assault, a disorderly persons offense.

Trenton police did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

ICE asked the Mercer County Correctional Facility to hand him over after the March arrest, and Cordon-Guzman was taken to the Essex County jail the day after, Smith said.

Since his escape, the Essex County Sheriff’s Office shared a K-9 and vehicles with the jail, but bad weather blocked the New Jersey State Police from flying a helicopter, agency representatives said.

Newark police referred questions to the county, which didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

Rules from the state Attorney General’s Office limit local cooperation with federal immigration officers, but jails generally have more leeway when dealing with someone charged with other crimes. Last year, corrections officials held onto inmates for ICE in 403 cases.

ICE asked anyone with information about Cordon-Guzman to contact local police or to call 1-866-347-2423. Smith said Cordon-Guzman may be a “threat to the public.”