

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING

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- A correctional emergency is any event that can:
  - Disrupt the orderly operation of a facility
  - Cause deaths, injuries, and property damage within the facility
  - Jeopardize the safety of the community



### Four Basic Detention Emergency Categories

- Inmate precipitated emergencies
- Facility fires and technological failures
- Natural disasters
- Human emergencies



### Guidelines

- “Good” inmates will not always remain “good during an emergency”
- Planning should be organized around the emergency life cycle:
  - Mitigation
  - Preparedness
  - Response
  - Recovery

### Post-Emergency Plan – Physical Plant

- Plan for the probable consequences of the following:
  - Disrupted staff access to the facility
  - Breaches in the perimeter security system
  - Disabled electronic monitoring equipment
  - Loss of electric power
  - Disruption of communication lines
  - Ruptured gas mains
  - Water and smoke damage
  - Structural damage to the cellblocks and other high-use areas
  - Air, water, or food contamination

### Post-Emergency Plan – Physical Plant cont

- Explosions
- Building collapse
- Fires
- Trapped staff and inmates
- Chemical release
- Disruption of sewage lines
- Loss of heating and cooling capability
- Loss of housing capability



## Post-Emergency Plan – Inmate Management

- Plan for the probable consequences of the following:
  - Health and safety
  - Food, water, clothing, and shelter
  - Medical attention
  - Communication with family
  - Personal property storage



## Activation

- Planning should include written directives for activation of the emergency:
  - Communication
  - Command post
  - Remaining on post
  - Post evacuation
  - Deploying specialized teams
  - Evacuating civilians



## Guidelines

- Plan must be unique to your facility
- Specific tasks should be assigned to specific individuals and those individuals are held accountable for their assignments
- Format of each emergency plan within the agency should be standardized
- Details are important

## Hunger Strike Plans

- When is it a lasting harm?
- Is it the food or something else?
- Medical staff daily assess any physical consequences
- Daily medical report given to administrator
- Report may be needed to obtain court order for intravenous feeding
- Inmates will still be offered food every meal
- Don't take stockpiled commissary from the inmate
- When is disciplinary action appropriate



## Escape Plans

- Are you sure he/she escaped?
  - Who was it?
  - What time?
  - How sure are you?
- Determine all possible escape routes from the facility
- Where are probable destination sites
- Where are possible hiding places along escape routes
- Alert other agencies
  - Photograph
  - Description
  - Arrest history
  - Names and addresses of known friends and family



## Escape Plans cont.

- Search Patterns
- Link Analysis
  - Mail
  - Phone records
  - Visitors
  - Staff collusion

## Riot Controls

- Immediate containment essential –full scale lockdown
- Designate staff responsible for securing doors, gates, cell doors and non-rioting inmates
- Maintain integrity of perimeter
- Decision Protocol
  - Response team
  - Tactical assaults
- Coordinated incident command
- Media policies
- Is evacuation of other inmates necessary?



## Retaking the Facility

- Number of staff entering riot area as large and well trained as resources permit
- Well developed plan of action understood by everyone involved
- Strict rules on firing weapons
- Clear visibility and open lines of communication for assault personnel
- Surrendering inmates searched thoroughly and escorted to holding or other area for investigation into their role
- Medical staff on standby
- Search of entire facility

## Hostage Planning

- Safety of hostages highest priority
- Anyone intercepted loses any rank
- Never promise inmates their freedom or immunity from prosecution
- Incident Command?
- Negotiate?
- Tactical?



## Work Stoppage Plans

- Are officers and health staff prohibited from sick outs and strikes?
- How do you know when it is a sick out vs real illness?
- Communication process for calling in administrative and supervisory staff to cover posts – possibly help from other agencies
- Suspend facility programs?
- Court injunction might stop strike
- “Blue Flu” – sick slip procedures should be strictly enforced
- Look for “root cause” of problem



## Fire Emergency Planning

- Fire Authority Command
  - Defend in place
  - Incident Command practice
  - Evacuate?
- Fire Attack Plans
  - Sprinkler valves
  - Hydrants/Standpipes
  - Egress points
  - Wildfires in community?
- Training with Authority Having Jurisdiction
  - Fire chief should have familiarity with facility
  - What is “all out” scenario?
  - Live smoke and fire drills



## Fire Emergency Planning

- Response
  - Additional perimeter patrols because of weaknesses to security
  - Procedures for returning inmates to unaffected housing units
  - Policy defining degree of force to be used on any inmate resisting evacuation, endangering staff or attempting to escape
  - Secure area in which unruly inmates can be housed
  - Ensure correction of deficiencies creating the emergency

## Natural Disaster Planning

- Weather alerts
- Water supplies – locations
- Mass transit plans/evacuation
- Medical care for injured
- Assessing structural damage
- Repairing structural damage
- Response
  - Releasing nonessential staff early
  - Calling in essential staff
  - Notifying citizens to leave the building
  - Keep inmates informed and calm



## Food Service Planning

- What's the status?
  - Gas, electric power loss?
  - Weather related?
  - Uncooked food?
- Equipment failed – Who's fixing it and when?
- Feed in or Order Out?
- Inventory
  - Perishables?
  - Food stocks?
- Potable water sources
- Are you the only agency affected or can others assist



## Crowding/Mass Arrest Emergency Plans

- How do we contain and book?
- How many extra staff?
- Where do we house them?
- How do we conduct medical assessments?
- Is there a plan in place to house them at another facility or building?



## Bomb Threat Planning

- If by phone control/dispatch should ask if possible:
    - When is the bomb set to explode?
    - Where is the bomb located?
    - What does the bomb look like?
    - Why are you doing this?
    - What is your name?
  - Control/dispatch should contact Sheriff for action on:
    - Alerting other law enforcement
    - Arrange for phone trace
    - Decide on evacuation
- Follow evacuation plan if threat is suspected to be valid  
Staff conduct thorough search of building – ordered not to touch any possible bomb



## Evacuation Planning

- What destination sites have capability of providing:
  - Secure inmate housing
  - Adequate levels of support services
  - Adequate levels of staff assistance
- How many evacuation routes are available
- What are most effective means of providing transport security?
  - Where do you get the vehicles?
  - What equipment should be carried?
  - Cell phones on all transport officers?
  - Sufficient handcuffs and leg irons?
  - Authorized firearms?

## Evacuation Planning

- What are most effective means of providing transport security? Cont.
  - What property can inmates take with them?
  - Transport personnel, chase cars, scout cars
  - Policy of no inmate contacting anyone from the outside
  - Sufficient training for special licenses to drive the evacuation vehicle
  - Procedures for contacting command with any deviation from original plan or route

## Evacuation Planning

- Communicate at evacuation site to command
- Provision of medical assistance
- What provisions must be made for inmate management?
- Test the plan

## Exercise: What Would You Do If

- Following are some scenarios of detention emergencies. Please outline in detail what you would do. Specifically address:
  - Officer Safety
  - Housing, if Applicable
  - Medical or Administrative Assistance
  - Outside Agency Assistance
  - Weapons, if Applicable
  - Facility Order

## Incident #1

- You are doing your security checks when you pass a cell that is filled with smoke. Inside, the mattress is on fire. When you look at the upper tier, you see flames coming from another cell at the opposite end of the unit.

## Incident #2

- You have 15 inmates in the recreation yard who are standing in a crowd watching something in the center of the crowd. The crowd is blocking your view of what is happening in the center of the crowd. You order everyone to clear out and no one moves.

## Incident #3

- You enter a housing unit and realize you forgot your radio. When you reach the back of the housing unit, three inmates begin to fight in the front of the unit blocking your path to the door.

## Incident #4

- You respond to the kitchen after you hear a call for backup on the radio. As you approach the kitchen, the kitchen cook is leaving with the inmate work crew. The cook states that there is still one inmate left in there, waving a butcher knife, telling everyone to stay away.

### Incident #5

- You have an inmate who has been on a hunger strike for ten days and is losing weight rapidly. He states he wants to die in your facility. The inmate's attorney tells you that you cannot interfere in the inmate's right to not eat.

### Inmate #6

- You have fifteen inmates out in the recreation yard. You open the door and tell them it is time to return to the housing unit. You notice they are all looking at the wall. You look up just in time to see an inmate go over the top of the wall. At the same time, two inmates get behind you and try to stop you from getting back out the door.

### Incident #7

- You have turned off the tv so the inmates will clean and they become angry. You open the door to the unit and tell them that as soon as they clean they can have the tv back. One inmate hurls a cup of unknown liquid at you and the others begin grabbing the tv and trying to yank it to the floor. Other inmates begin yanking on the sinks and toilets to pull them from the wall. And another couple of inmates are using unknown metal objects to try to break the window

### Incident #8

- You are working in the booking room when a call comes over the radio for backup. An officer just entered the maximum security unit to do a security check and several inmates grabbed him and are now holding a shank to his throat. They are threatening to kill him unless the Sheriff meets their demands of better food and medical care.

### Incident #9

- You are the supervisor on duty and your entire staff calls in sick. Everyone you call to come in also states they are sick with the same flu bug and refuse to come in to work. You know that some of the staff have a morale issue but haven't heard anything that would indicate they planned a "blue flu".

### Incident #10

- You have had a bomb threat called in to Control. The investigators feel that the threat is real and you must evacuate the inmates immediately.

### Incident #11

- An earthquake hits the area and you have sustained sufficient damage to part of the jail. Two housing units have sustained significant damage and the rest seem to be ok at the moment. The kitchen has also sustained extensive damage and the refrigerators, freezers, stoves and oven are not in working order

### Incident #12

- You have had a large drug bust that has involved several agencies. So far, 33 people have been brought to your facility to be booked and reports are that more are coming. Your jail is basically full with only five open beds in the facility. In one of your holding cells you have a person who is intoxicated and mentally ill and is hallucinating. And, in another, you have an intoxicated person who has been vomiting all night and is very ill.