



What Emergency Management Needs to Know about Corrections

Correctional facilities face many unique challenges during an emergency or any incident, whether natural or human-caused, that require responsive action to protect life or property.* Correctional facilities may have crowded dormitories, limited medical and isolation resources, restricted entrances, and a continual introduction of newly incarcerated or detained persons. Responding to a correctional facility or providing resources also requires advance planning and creative solutions because of the need to balance response actions with facility security. The following graphic provides emergency managers a glimpse into the unique considerations for collaborating with corrections.

- Learn about the existing health protocols and procedures within corrections systems.
- Understand how medical services are provided to people who are incarcerated and staff.
- Be aware that an outbreak of illness at a correctional facility can quickly overwhelm community resources if not given high priority.

Health Protocols within Corrections Systems:



- Understand that corrections does not plan for extensive outside assistance because facilities must balance the needs of response with facility security.
- Solicit active participation from corrections in all hazards planning with local, state and federal organizations. Work together on emergency response plans that involve corrections facilities.
- Include corrections staff in tabletop exercises and drills to enhance coordination.

Collaborative Planning:



- Be aware that corrections is a resource available to support emergency response but also may need resources during an event.
- •Collaborate on resource-sharing strategies during crises.
- Be aware that corrections staff are difficult to replace without specialized training.

Resource Requirements and Allocation:



- Understand legal and regulatory constraints affecting corrections systems.
- •Ensure emergency management plans align with legal requirements for correctional facilities.
- Recognize that corrections has unique requirements and capabilities (e.g., facility security) that may influence the jurisdiction's response.

Legal and Regulatory Frameworks:



- Be aware of the numbers, types, locations of correctional facilities in the state, county, local jurisdictions.
- Understand the physical layout, the limitations of the facilities, and the population density to assess potential risks during a pandemic.

Facility Layout and Population Density:



- Establish clear communication channels with corrections leadership.
- Ensure that emergency information effectively reaches both staff and people who are incarcerated.

Communication Channels:



- Identify vulnerable populations within corrections facilities (e.g., elderly, immunocompromised).
- Consider the needs of people who are incarcerated with preexisting health conditions.

Vulnerabilities and Special Needs:



^{*}Definition of "emergency" by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101 (fema.gov).





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- Stay updated on the latest public health guidelines, especially those related to infectious diseases like COVID-19.
- Implement recommended public health practices and guidance within the corrections setting.

Public Health Guidelines:



- •Learn how to request assistance from emergency management.
- Familiarize corrections staff with emergency management protocols, including incident command structures.
- Collaborate on joint training exercises for emergency response.

Emergency Management Protocols:



- Establish clear protocols for sharing critical information with emergency management agencies.
- Ensure timely and accurate reporting of incidents, including health-related issues.

Information Sharing Protocols:



- Develop relationships with external agencies involved in emergency response, such as state and local emergency management agencies.
- Coordinate efforts with local health departments, hospitals, and other relevant entities.

Coordination with External Agencies:



- Work with emergency management to develop evacuation and sheltering plans for people who are incarcerated and staff.
- Consider temporary facilities for medical treatment centers, utilizing support and coordination from emergency management.
- Ensure plans are integrated into overall emergency response strategies.

Evacuation, Sheltering and Alternate Care Facility Plans:



- Collaborate with emergency management in community engagement efforts.
- Educate the community about corrections systems' response to non-security emergencies, noting the need to balance coordinated response with facility security.

Community Engagement:



- Coordinate with emergency management to plan for resource allocation during emergencies and how to request external assistance for non-traditional requirements include funding and mutual aid.
- Understand the availability and types of external resources to support correctional facilities including contract support services, vendors and supply chain capacity.

Resource Planning:



^{*}Definition of "emergency" by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, <u>Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101 (fema.gov)</u>.