



Texas Commission on Jail Standards

Denton County Jail

Denton, Texas

March 8-10, 2022

Date(s) of Inspection

SUBJECT: INSPECTION REPORT

State Law requires periodic inspections of county jail facilities (VTCA, Local Government Code, Chapter 351, VTCA, Government Code, Chapter 511; Chapter 297.8, Texas Commission on Jail Standards).

- The facility was inspected on the date(s) indicated above, and it was determined that deficiencies exist. You are urged: (1) to give these areas of noncompliance your serious and immediate consideration; and (2) to promptly initiate and complete appropriate corrective measures. The Commission is available to discuss or assist you with the appropriate corrective measures required.



Failure to initiate and complete corrective measures following receipt of the Notice of Noncompliance may result in the issuance of a Remedial Order (Chapter 297.8, et seq.).

- This facility was inspected on the date(s) indicated above. There were no deficiencies noted and upon review of this report by the Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, a certificate of Compliance may be issued per the requirements of VTCA, Chapter 511 and Texas Minimum Jail Standards.

Authenticated:

Inter-Office Use Only


 Michael L. Gravitt, TCJS Inspector

	3/11/2022
Received by:	Date
	3/11/22
Reviewed by:	Date

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Texas Commission on Jail Standards

cc: Judge
Sheriff

Individuals and/or entities regulated by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards shall direct all complaints regarding the commission procedures and functions to the Executive Director at: P.O. Box 12985 Austin, Texas 78711 (512) 463-5505 Fax (512) 463-3185 or at our agency website at www.tcjs.state.tx.us .

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS
ANNUAL JAIL REPORT**

County: <u>Denton</u>	
Sheriff: <u>Tracy Murphree</u>	Judge: <u>Andy Eads</u>
email: tracy.murphree@dentoncounty.com	email: andy.eads@dentoncounty.com
Jail Administrator: <u>Barry Caver</u>	Inspector: <u>Michael Gravitt</u>
email: barry.caver@dentoncounty.com	

Last Inspection May 20-21, 2021 Compliant No Inspection Date(s) March 8-10, 2022
 Remedial Order N/A Effect: _____

Reportable Incidents <small>(Previous 12 month History)</small>	Fires <u>0</u>	Escapes <u>0</u>	FOR	Contract Inmates Housed	
	Deaths <u>2</u>	Walkaway <u>0</u>		USMS	<u>26</u>
	Suicides <u>0</u>	Secured <u>0</u>			
Date Plans Approved <u>December 5, 2014</u>					

1. Facility Name Denton County-Main Jail (Unit 1)
 Address 127 N. Woodrow Ln. Denton, TX. Zip Code 76205
 Phone # (940) 898-5701 Fax # (940) 898-5759
 Built 1987 Renovated N/A Addition 92/94
 Type Max Number of Variances 2

Drill Time 1m 8s
 Facility Capacity 641
 Average Daily Population 496.92
 Housing Total this Date 496
 Holding Total this Date 0

2. Facility Name New Barracks (D5, D6) (Unit 1)
 Address 1410 Troy H. La Grone Dr. Denton, T) Zip Code 76205
 Phone # (940) 349-1890 Fax # N/A
 Built 2001 Renovated N/A Addition N/A
 Type Min Number of Variances 2

Drill Time tested
 Facility Capacity 96
 Average Daily Population 0.00
 Housing Total this Date 0
 Holding Total this Date 0

3. Facility Name Pre-Trial Jail (Unit 2)
 Address 1410 Troy H. La Grone Dr. Denton, T) Zip Code 76205
 Phone # (940) 349-1890 Fax # N/A
 Built 2001 Renovated N/A Addition N/A
 Type Max Number of Variances 1

Drill Time 1m 45s
 Facility Capacity 466
 Average Daily Population 381.58
 Housing Total this Date 259
 Holding Total this Date 15

<p>Housing Capacity <u>1591</u></p> <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <th>Cells</th> <th>Capacity</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Sep Cells <u>96</u></td> <td><u>96</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Single Cells <u>103</u></td> <td><u>103</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>M.O. Cells <u>96</u></td> <td><u>240</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dorms <u>26</u></td> <td><u>1152</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neg Press Cells <u>3</u></td> <td><u>3</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medical Cells <u>13</u></td> <td><u>13</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>Notes: The medical cell is included in the MO cell count.</p>	Cells	Capacity	Sep Cells <u>96</u>	<u>96</u>	Single Cells <u>103</u>	<u>103</u>	M.O. Cells <u>96</u>	<u>240</u>	Dorms <u>26</u>	<u>1152</u>	Neg Press Cells <u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	Medical Cells <u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<p>Holding Capacity <u>80</u></p> <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <th>Cells</th> <th>Capacity</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Holding Cells <u>4</u></td> <td><u>54</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Detoxification Cells <u>4</u></td> <td><u>24</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Violent Cells <u>2</u></td> <td><u>2</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>Construction Security Level</p> <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <td>Minimum Capacity</td> <td><u>0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medium Capacity</td> <td><u>576</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maximum Capacity</td> <td><u>1015</u></td> </tr> </table>	Cells	Capacity	Holding Cells <u>4</u>	<u>54</u>	Detoxification Cells <u>4</u>	<u>24</u>	Violent Cells <u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Minimum Capacity	<u>0</u>	Medium Capacity	<u>576</u>	Maximum Capacity	<u>1015</u>	<p>Females <u>155</u> <small>(Female Population Today)</small></p> <p># of Cells <u>32</u> # of Bunks <u>220</u></p> <p>Contract Inmates 100 + Capacity (30% + Non - TX) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
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Population: **Housing** 1015 **Hold/Detox/Violent** 15 **Total System Population** 1030
(During Inspection)
 Total Inspection Time 16 hours **Total Average Daily Population** 1009.75

Sheriff Barry Caver Interview with Court Representative Yes No
 Jail Administrator _____ Judge Eads was briefed via telephone _____
 Commissioners Court Representative _____

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS - INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS REVIEW



Michael L. Gravitt, TCJS Inspector

Facility Name: Denton County Jail

Date:

March 8-10, 2022

Chapter	Title	Comments
259	New Construction	Conducted a walk through inspection of the facility.
261	Existing Construction	Not applicable.
263	Life Safety	Inspected life safety equipment and conducted and observed emergency drill. Reviewed documentation. Conducted staff interviews. Deficiency noted, see report. Technical assistance provide - 1) During the investigation of a submitted complaint, it was determined that the fire alarm panel located in the Pre Trial Tower 1 building was inoperable. Administration advised that Denton Co. was currently in the process of replacing the fire alarm panel and smoke detection heads within the facility. It was then determined that the project was started approximately the first of February 2022 and there was no notification made to TCJS prior to starting the project. Follow-up action required - Administration will immediately contact planners with TCJS and submit required documentation for the project. Staff will complete documented 15 min fire watches within the facility until the project is completed. Administration will make contact with the local fire marshal for direction and input on use of the facility while the project is ongoing. Administration will scan and email the required 15 min fire watch checks to this inspector on a weekly basis until the completion of the project. Administration will notify this inspector upon completion of the project and an on site re-inspection will be scheduled to test the fire alarm system. ****Inspectors note - The smoke removal system for the Pre-Trial Tower Jail is operable under manual control. Staff are trained in the use of the smoke removal system via manual means.
263	Life Safety (cont.)	2) Denton County jail facilities were last inspected by the fire marshal on May 27, 2021. The fire marshal noted that the Main Jail Facility, the Pre-Trial Facility and the Barracks Facility each failed their inspection and noted deficiencies found on each report. The report also showed that re-inspection of the facilities was to take place on or after June 11, 2021. On June 18, 2021, the fire marshal conducted a re-inspection of the Main Jail Facility, the Pre-Trial Facility and the Barracks Facility and again noted a failing inspection for these facilities. The report notes that deficiencies found during the May 27, 2021 inspection still exist and were not corrected. The report states that a re-inspection was to be performed on or after July 2, 2021. Maintenance personnel advised that a re-inspection has not been requested since the June 18, 2021 inspection. Follow-up action required - Denton County will make necessary corrections noted on the fire marshal inspection report and request a re-inspection of the Main Jail Facility, the Pre-Trial Facility and the Barracks Facility. The fire marshal inspection reports for these facilities will be scanned and emailed to this inspector upon completion. ****Inspectors note - Maintenance personnel advised that corrections for the Barracks Facility were made and sent to the fire marshal. The fire marshal who conducted the inspections will not be available until Monday, March 14, 2022 and documentation can not be provided until that time. Maintenance personnel were also not able to provide documentation provided to the fire marshal. Due to the fire marshal not being available, the Barracks Facility will not be included in the Areas of Non-Compliance. Administration will obtain the documentation of a passing inspection on Monday, March 14, 2022 and will scan and email the inspection report to this inspector. Failure to provide documentation of a passing inspection for the Barracks Facility on Monday, March 14, will result in an additional notice of non-compliance being issued.
263	Life Safety (cont.)	3) During testing of the emergency generator for the Pre-Trial Facility, the generator failed to operate automatically when power was transferred from the facility. Weekly test and monthly load test documentation shows that tests were performed and there were no issues noted during the test. Follow up action required - Administration will work with a contractor to initiate repairs to the facility generator. Once repairs have been completed, administration will notify this inspector and an on site re inspection will be scheduled to test the generator. 4) The fire alarm panel for the courthouse was last inspected on August 28, 2021. The alarm panel was yellow tagged and red tagged during the inspection for several issues. Maintenance personnel advised that parts to complete the needed repairs were not ordered until approximately February 21, 2022 and will not arrive until late April 2022. Follow-up action required - Administration will forward documentation of repairs to the courthouse fire panel showing that the system is no longer red tagged. Verification will be made during the scheduled on site re-

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS - INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS REVIEW

263	Life Safety (cont.)	Technical assistance provided - During the review of facility generator logs, it was determined that a weekly test of the Barracks generator was not conducted for the week of 12/6/21, 12/20/21, and 12/27/21. It was also noted that a full load test was not conducted with the Barracks generator for November and December 2021. Maintenance staff advised that there were mechanical issues with the Barracks generator during this time frame that prevented the required tests from being conducted until repairs could be completed. Administration was advised if a generator down for mechanical reasons for an extended period of time, they should make notification to their inspector. It was noted that inmates were not housed in the Barracks housing during the affected time. No follow-up required
265	Admission	Reviewed a random sample of 40 inmate files. Interviewed staff. Reviewed policy.
267	Release	Reviewed a random sample of 10 inmate files. Interviewed staff.
269	Records/Procedures	Reviewed policy and documentation. Interviewed staff and reviewed ADA compliance evaluation.
271	Classification	Reviewed a random selection of 40 inmate files. Reviewed staff training records. Reviewed internal classification audits. Reviewed policy. Interviewed staff.
273	Health Services	Reviewed a random selection of 40 files. Interviewed staff and inmates. Reviewed training records. Reviewed policy.
275	Supervision	Reviewed a random selection of 100 officer TCOLE certification records. Reviewed officer documentation. Interviewed staff. Deficiency noted, see report. Technical assistance provided - During the investigation of a submitted complaint, it was determined that on December 29, 2021, staff failed to conduct proper face to face observations of an inmate located in Holding 1 who later died of unknown causes. This inspector reviewed video of the observation checks being performed and noted that staff were scanning the electronic sensor to complete the observation check but were not actually observing the inmate in the holding cell. An observation check of the inmate was conducted at 0508 hrs. Video revealed that the inmate in the holding cell laid down in the center of the holdover at approximately 0510 hrs. and movement stopped at approximately 0513 hrs. An observation check was performed at 0532:58 without staff actually seeing the inmate. A staff member checked on the inmate at 0537 hrs. and summoned medical assistance for the inmate. No follow-up action required, administration will take corrective action with staff involved internally.
277	Personal Hygiene	Conducted a facility walk through. Reviewed facility schedule.
279	Sanitation	Conducted a facility walk through. Interviewed staff and inmates. Reviewed policy.
281	Food Service	Conducted walk through inspection in kitchen area. Interviewed staff. Reviewed documentation. Technical assistance provided - During the review of food handler licenses, it was determined that licenses for staff members Mona Hodges, Wilma Ammons, Stephanie Lyles and Peter Almanza had recently expired in February 2022. Issue was addressed with administration that staff overseeing the preparation of food in the kitchen must possess a valid food handlers license. Follow-up action required - Staff will obtain the required food handlers license within the next 7 days. Administration will scan and email copies of valid certificates to this inspector.
283.1	Discipline	Reviewed 30 disciplinary hearing records. Interviewed staff and inmates. Reviewed policy. Reviewed inmate
283.3	Grievance	Reviewed 25 inmate grievance/complaints. Reviewed policy. Interviewed staff and inmates.
285	Exercise	Walk through of exercise area conducted. Reviewed documentation. Interviewed staff and inmates.
287	Education/Library	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
289	Work Assignments	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
291.1	Telephone	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
291.2	Correspondence	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
291.3	Commissary	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
291.4	Visitation	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
291.5	Religious Practices	Reviewed policy and schedule. Interviewed staff and inmates.
xxx	Variances	Reviewed facilities variances.
xxx	Remedial Orders	Not applicable.
xxx	Complaints	Not applicable.
xxx	CCQ	CCQ standards are being met by the facility as required by TLETS.

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS
JAIL INSPECTION REPORT**

Facility Name: Denton County

Date:

March 8-10, 2022

Item	Section	Paragraph	Comments
1	263	.50(a)	<p>New facilities, new additions, and major renovations to existing facilities shall be equipped with an emergency back-up electrical generator designed to operate both manually and automatically upon interruption of the primary electrical power source.</p> <p>During the inspection, the facility generator for the Pre-Trial Facility failed to operate automatically when power was disconnected to the facility.</p>
2	263	.42	<p>Fire Prevention Plan. Each facility, after consultation with the local fire department or Texas Commission on Fire Protection, shall have and implement a written plan, approved by the Commission, for fire prevention and a fire hazard inspection checklist which shall be evaluated no less than each calendar quarter. The facility shall be inspected annually by a local fire official.</p> <p>The Main Jail Facility and Pre-Trial Facility failed the annual inspection conducted by the Fire Marshal on May 27, 2021 and also failed a re-inspection conducted on June 18, 2021. Corrections for the deficiencies noted on the inspection report have not been corrected.</p>
3	263	.55	<p>Inspections, Maintenance, Testing. All life safety equipment shall be inspected, maintained, and tested by persons qualified to do so (whether under vendor contract, by state or private agency or otherwise) in order that such equipment shall be safe, secure, and fully operative at all times.</p> <p>The fire alarm system in the Pre-Trial Tower Facility was inoperable at the time of inspection. It was determined that Denton County is in the process of replacing the fire alarm system and had not made notification to TCJS prior to starting the project.</p>
4	263	.55	<p>Inspections, Maintenance, Testing. All life safety equipment shall be inspected, maintained, and tested by persons qualified to do so (whether under vendor contract, by state or private agency or otherwise) in order that such equipment shall be safe, secure, and fully operative at all times.</p> <p>The fire alarm panel for the courthouse was "Red" tagged August 28, 2021. Repairs to the courthouse fire alarm system had not been completed at the time of inspection.</p>
5	275	.1	<p>Facilities shall have an established procedure for documented, face-to-face observation of all inmates by jailers no less than once every 60 minutes. Observation shall be performed at least every 30 minutes in areas where inmates known to be assaultive, potentially suicidal, mentally ill, or who have demonstrated bizarre behavior are confined.</p> <p>Video documentation reviewed, shows that staff failed to conduct a proper face-to-face observation of an inmate in Holding 1. Staff merely scanned the electronic tag without actually seeing the inmate in the holding cell. The inmate suffered a medical emergency resulting in death while in the holding cell.</p>

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Michael L. Gravitt, TCJS Inspector