

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS  
JAIL INSPECTION REPORT

Facility Name: Willacy Co. Jail

Date:

April 19, 2022

Item	Section	Paragraph	Comments
1	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><b>The facility was last inspected by a local fire official on November 18, 2019. This placed the inspection overdue by 17 months.</b></p>
2	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><b>The fire panel was in trouble mode at the time of the inspection. Documentation provided indicated the fire panel was last inspected on December 1, 2020. This placed the inspection overdue by 4 months.</b></p>
3	263	.56	<p>Testing Emergency Power Equipment. Emergency power equipment shall be tested at least once each week and the electric load transferred to the circuits at least monthly.</p> <p><b>Documentation provided indicated load tests were not performed on the generator during the last 12 months.</b></p>
4	265	.13	<p>(a) Each sheriff/operator shall investigate and verify the veteran status of each prisoner by using data made available from the Veterans Reentry Search Service (VRSS) operated by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs or similar service.</p> <p>(b) Each sheriff/ operator shall provide assistance to prisoners identified as veterans, identified through either self-report or the VRSS, in applying for federal benefits or compensation for which the prisoners may be eligible under a program administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Assistance includes, but not limited to, direct assistance by qualified claims counselor, issuance of a referral card, or similar assistance.</p> <p>(c) Each sheriff shall maintain a log of positive VRSS returns with identifying prisoner number and whether a referral card was issued to the identified veteran prior to his or her release. If a referral card was not issued, a reason shall be provided on the log.</p> <p><b>Facility is not utilizing the VRSS system. No VRSS verifications have been completed in the last 12 months.</b></p>
5	273	.7(a)	<p>273.7(a) Tuberculosis Screening Plan. Each facility having a capacity of 100 or more beds, or housing inmates transferred from a facility with a capacity of at least 100 beds or housing inmates from another state, shall develop and implement a plan for tuberculosis screening tests of <u>employees, volunteers</u>, and inmates.</p> <p><b>Facility was unable to produce documentation indicating staff or volunteers are being tested for Tuberculosis. The facility Tuberculosis Plan indicates staff shall be tested within 7 days of employment and annually thereafter.</b></p>

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- 6 275 .1 Regular Observation by Jailers. 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.  
**On numerous occasions staff exceeded the 30 to 60 minute face to face observations as required by minimum standards.**
- 7 275 .6(c) Searches for Contraband. For the protection of corrections personnel and inmates. There shall be regular and irregular searches of the entire facility area for contraband which shall be noted in a permanent facility record.  
**There were no contraband checks documented during the last 12 months.**
- 8 285 .1 Physical Exercise. Each facility shall have and implement a written plan, approved by the Commission, for inmate physical exercise and physical recreation. Documentation of physical exercise and physical recreation shall be maintained for Commission review. Each inmate shall be allowed one hour of supervised physical exercise or physical recreation at least three days per week.  
**Documentation is not being completed, indicating inmates have received one hour of supervised physical exercise or physical recreation at least three days per week.**

  
Martin Arnold, TCJS Inspector

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