

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS *File*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Brandon S. Wood



P.O. Box 12985
Austin, Texas 78711
Voice: (512) 463-5505
Fax: (512) 463-3185
Agency Website: <http://www.tcjs.state.tx.us>
E-mail Address: info@tcjs.state.tx.us

Runnels

August 31, 2022

The Honorable Julia Miller
Runnels County Judge
613 Hutchings Avenue, Rm. 103
Ballinger, TX 76821-5706

and


Sheriff Carl Squyres
Runnels County Sheriff
612 Strong Ave.
Ballinger, TX 76821

Dear Judge Miller and Sheriff Squyres,

Pursuant to the provisions of V.T.C.A. Government Code, Section 511.011 and Title 37, Texas Administrative Code (Chapter 297, Section 5, Texas Minimum Jail Standards), you are hereby notified that the jail in your county fails to comply with minimum standards established under V.T.C.A. Local Government Code, Chapter 351, and the rules of this Commission, and that appropriate corrective measures must be initiated. A reasonable completion date for corrective measures should be set. Failure to initiate appropriate corrective action may cause a remedial order to be issued and enforced, or other appropriate action taken. **In accordance with Chapter 297, Section 6, Texas Minimum Jail Standards, please notify this agency in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of this notice as to actions initiated.**

The attached page(s) indicate minimum standards violated, corrective measures required, and date by which corrective measures must be initiated. Please reference the Inspection Requirements Review and Jail Inspection Report issued on August 23, 2022, detailing the specific issues that resulted in the issuance of this notice of non-compliance.

Issued this 31st day of August 2022
Texas Commission on Jail Standards

By 
Brandon S. Wood, Executive Director

BW/cw

Judge Bill Stoudt, Longview, Chair
Dr. Esmaeil Porsa, M.D., Parker, Vice-Chair
Ross Reyes, Melissa

Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Lubbock
Sheriff Raul "Pinky" Gonzales, Refugio
Patricia M. Anthony, Garland

Commissioner Ben Perry, Waco
Duane Lock, Southlake
Monica McBride, Alpine

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS - INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS REVIEW



Michael Gravitt, TCJS Inspector

Facility Name: Runnels County Jail

Date: August 23, 2022

Chapter	Title	Comments
259	New Construction	Conducted a walk through of the facility.
261	Existing Construction	Not applicable.
263	Life Safety	Inspected life safety equipment. Conducted and observed emergency drill. Reviewed documentation. Conducted staff interviews. Deficiencies noted, see report. Technical assistance provided - 1) During the review of life safety documentation it was observed that multiple staff members failed to complete required quarterly life safety for the 2nd quarter of 2022 and 4th quarters of 2021. Follow-up action required - Upon completion, administration will scan and email life safety training for the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2022 to this inspector for review. 2) At the time of inspection, the facility generator was unable to be tested due to a faulty transfer switch. Administration advised that the transfer switch has been inoperable since April 2021 and repairs have not been made. Administration also advised that there is no maintenance contract in place to keep the generator maintained. Administration advised that the generator has functioned properly when the facility experienced a power failure. Follow-up action required - Within the next 30 days, administration will provide a plan of action explaining what steps are being taken to initiate repairs to the facility generator. Once repairs have been completed, administration will notify this inspector so a re-inspection of the facility can be completed.
263	Life Safety (cont.)	3) During the review of generator logs, it was observed that required monthly full load test of the facility generator have not been conducted for the preceding 15 months. Administration advised that tests were not conducted due to an issue with transfer switch. Follow-up action required - Within the next 30 days, administration will provide a plan of action explaining what steps are being taken to initiate repairs to the facility generator. 4) The facility ANSUL System in the kitchen was last inspected in December 2021 placing the inspection 3 months overdue. Administration was advised that NFPA rules require a bi-annual inspection of the ANSUL system. Follow-up action required - Administration will schedule an inspection of the ANSUL system within the next 30 days. Documentation showing that the inspection was conducted will be scanned and emailed to this inspector for review.
265	Admission	Reviewed a random sample of 4 inmate files. Interviewed staff. Reviewed policy. Deficiency noted, see report. Technical assistance provided - 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 has not been maintained for the preceding five months. Follow-up action required - Administration will scan and email the VRSS log of positive responses to this inspector weekly for the next 60 days for review.
267	Release	Reviewed a random sample of 3 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 4 files. Reviewed training records.
273	Health Services	Reviewed a random selection of 4 files. Interviewed staff and inmates. Reviewed training records. Reviewed policy. Deficiency noted, see report. Technical assistance provided - During review of restraint logs, it was determined that staff exceeded the required 15-minute observation checks by 1 to 25 minutes on multiple occasions. Follow-up action required - Administration will conduct documented training with staff regarding the use of restraints and the importance of conducting rounds within the mandated 15 minute timeframe. Training is to be conducted within the next 30 days. Administration will scan and email documentation of this training to this inspector for review.

RECEIVED
AUG 31 2022

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS - INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS REVIEW

275	Supervision	Reviewed a random selection of 16 jailer TCOLE certification records. Reviewed jailer documentation. Interviewed staff. <u>Deficiency noted, see report. Technical assistance provided</u> - 1) During the review of observation logs it was observed that staff are exceeding the required 30 minute observations in areas where inmates known to be assaultive, potentially suicidal, mentally ill, or who have demonstrated bizarre behavior are confined. Observation checks were exceeded by 1 to 45 minutes on multiple occasions. Administration advised that due to staffing levels, staff are sometimes performing other duties resulting in the observation checks being conducted late. <u>Follow-up action required</u> - Within the next 30 days administration will provide a plan of action to address staffing within the facility. Administration will also provide documented training to staff covering required 30 minute observation checks. 2) Records reviewed during the inspection reveal that staffing, while sufficient to meet the required ratio of 1 officer to 48 inmates, is insufficient to perform other required functions within the facility. Areas found to be affected by staffing during this inspection include food preparation in the kitchen, restraint checks, and observation checks. When the facility is staffed with two members, staff cannot keep up with required functions within the facility. <u>Follow-up action required</u> - Administration will provide a plan of action within 30 days to address facility staffing. The plan of action shall address how staffing is going to be maintained to ensure that required functions are performed.
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, <u>Deficiency noted, see report. Technical assistance provided</u> - Through review of staffing rosters and interviews with staff and inmates, it was determined that food is routinely prepared in the kitchen by inmates without staff supervision. Administration advised that staffing levels routinely do not allow for someone to be present in the kitchen while meals are being prepared. Issue was addressed with administration that food shall be prepared under the supervision of a staff member or contract employee who possesses a food handler license. <u>Follow-up action required</u> - Within the next 30 days, administration will provide a plan of action to this inspector addressing the preparation of food under supervision from a staff member. Administration will provide staff roster to this inspector for the next 30 to 60 days showing that a staff member is assigned to the kitchen during food preparation. <u>Technical assistance provided</u> - The food handlers license for staff member Alicia Young expired on June 5, 2021. Issue was addressed with administration to renew the food license. <u>Follow-up action required</u> - Administration will renew the food handlers license for Alicia Young within the next 30 days and will scan and email a copy of the license to this inspector.
283.1	Discipline	Reviewed 10 disciplinary hearing records. Interviewed staff and inmates. Reviewed policy. Reviewed inmate
283.3	Grievance	Reviewed 15 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	Variance was reviewed with facility administration to insure compliance
xxx	Remedial Orders	Not applicable.
xxx	Complaints	Not applicable.
xxx	CCQ	CCQ inquiries are being submitted through TLETS as required.

RECEIVED
AUG 31 2022

TEXAS COMMISSION
ON JAIL STANDARDS

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Brandon S. Wood



P.O. Box 12985
Austin, Texas 78711
Voice: (512) 463-5505
Fax: (512) 463-3185
<http://www.tcjs.state.tx.us>
info@tcjs.state.tx.us

NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE RUNNELS COUNTY JAIL

August 23, 2022

Please reference the Inspection Requirements Review and Jail Inspection Report issued on March 24, 2022, detailing the specific issues that resulted in the issuance of this notice of non-compliance.

Minimum Standards Violated:	Corrective Measure Required	Date Corrective Action Must Be Completed
263.41	<p>Training of staff for emergency situations shall be provided immediately upon employment and no less than each calendar quarter for all jail personnel to include fire, emergency, evacuation drills, and location and use of equipment.</p> <p>Multiple staff members did not receive required quarterly training during the 4th quarter of 2021 and 2nd quarter of 2022.</p>	Upon receipt of this notice.
263.55	<p>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 ANSUL system located in the kitchen was last inspected in December 2021 placing the inspection out of date by three months.</p>	Upon receipt of this notice.
263.55	<p>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 transfer switch for the facility generator was inoperable on the day of the inspection. Records show the transfer switch has been inoperable since April</p>	Upon receipt of this notice.

Judge Bill Stoudt, Longview, Chair
Dr. Esmaeil Porsa, M.D., Parker, Vice-Chair
Ross Reyes, Melissa

Sheriff Kelly Rowe, Lubbock
Sheriff Raul "Pinky" Gonzales, Refugio
Patricia M. Anthony, Garland

Commissioner Ben Perry, Waco
Duane Lock, Southlake
Monica McBride, Alpine

2021 and repairs have not been completed to date.

- | | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| 263.56 | <p>Emergency power equipment shall be tested at least once each week and the electric load transferred to the circuits at least monthly.</p> <p>Records show that full load tests of the facility generator have not been conducted since April 2021.</p> | <p>Upon receipt of this notice.</p> |
| 265.13(c) | <p>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>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 has not been maintained for the preceding five months.</p> | |
| 273.6(3) | <p>A documented observation of the inmate shall be conducted every 15 minutes, at a minimum. The observations should include an assessment of the security of the restraints and the circulation to the extremities.</p> <p>Observation checks of inmates restrained with the restraint chair were conducted from 1 to 25 minutes over the required 15-minute time frame on multiple occasions.</p> | <p>Upon receipt of this notice.</p> |
| 275.1 | <p>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>Documentation reviewed revealed face-to-face observations in areas where inmates known to be assaultive, potentially suicidal, mentally ill, or who have demonstrated bizarre behavior are confined were exceeded by 1 to 48 minutes on a routine basis.</p> | <p>Upon receipt of this notice.</p> |
| 275.4 | <p>Sufficient staff to include supervisors, jailers and other essential personnel as accepted by the Commission shall be provided to perform required functions.</p> | <p>Upon receipt of this notice.</p> |

281.5

Staffing within the facility is not sufficient to perform other required functions within the facility. Areas found to be affected by staffing during this inspection include food preparation in the kitchen, restraint checks, and observation checks.

Food shall be prepared under the supervision of a staff member or contract employee who possesses a food handler license in accordance with Texas Food Establishment Rules (TFER) §228.33

Through review of staffing rosters and interviews with staff and inmates, it was determined that food is routinely prepared in the kitchen by inmates without staff supervision.

Upon receipt of this notice.