

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Ricky Armstrong



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NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE MITCHELL COUNTY JAIL

March 31, 2026

Please reference the Inspection Requirements Review and Jail Inspection Report issued on March 27, 2026, 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
263.42	<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 on Jail Standards, 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 who is certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection or who meets the alternative criteria provided in Government Code 419.909 and shall pass the inspection.</p> <p>During the review of the fire official inspection documentation, it was identified that the most recent inspection was conducted on October 31, 2024, placing the facility five months overdue for its required annual inspection.</p>	Upon receipt of this notice.
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>During walkthrough of the facility it was determined the fire panel was in Trouble Mode. The panel indicated that a detector was missing in the facility, but staff were unable to locate and replace the missing detector prior to the conclusion of the inspection.</p>	Upon receipt of this notice

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Dr. Esmail Porsa, M.D., Vice-Chair
Judge Joseph "Joe" Fauth, III, Plantersville

Sheriff Richard Kirkpatrick, Kingsville
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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 employees, volunteers, and inmates. Inmates confined in the jail for more than 7 days shall be tested on or before the 7th day after the day of confinement. Inmates may be exempt from the screening test when the test conflicts with the tenets of an organized religion to which the individual belongs or when the test is contraindicated based on an examination by a physician. An inmate is not required to be retested at each rebooking if the inmate is booked into the facility more than once during a 12-month period, unless the inmate shows symptoms of or is known to have been exposed to tuberculosis.

Upon receipt of this notice

During the review of the Texas Department of Health Services approved Correctional Tuberculosis Screening Plan, it was determined staff are not following the rules outlined in the plan. Staff are not currently testing all inmates booked into the facility and are not testing new employees upon hire and once annually in accordance with the plan. Staff were advised they either had to cancel contracts with jails over 100 beds or become compliant with their TB-Plan.

275.1 Regular Observation by Jailers. Every facility shall have the appropriate number of jailers at the facility 24 hours each day. 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.

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During the facility walkthrough, it was observed that multiple bunks throughout the facility were covered with blankets and clothing, preventing staff from verifying the presence of living, breathing inmates in those bunks.

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279.1(5) Sanitation Plan: Each facility shall have and implement a written plan, reviewed and approved by the commission, for the maintenance of an acceptable level of cleanliness and sanitation throughout the facility. Such plan shall provide for the maintenance of toilets, lavatories, showers, and other equipment throughout the facility in good working order.

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notice**

During the walk-through of the facility the following issues :

- **Multiple Occupancy Cell (MO) A-1 - Toilet not functioning. 1 toilet in cell.**
- **MO A-2 - Cold water button in shower and sink not functioning. Shower too hot for inmates to utilize. 1 Shower and sink in cell.**
- **MO C-2 - Once water in shower is actuated, the water has to be turned off by staff in the plumbing chase.**
- **MO D-1 - No cold water available in both sinks.**
- **MO D-2 - Hot water in sink #1 does not work**
- **Kitchen - Both hand washing stations sinks were not functioning. Drain near large sink was clogged and temporary plastic piping was being utilized to drain sinks to alternate drain.**
- **Holding 3 - Intercom was out of order, cell was taken off-line.**

281.5 Staff Supervision: Food shall be prepared under the supervision of a staff member or contract employee who possesses a food handler license in accordance with 25 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §228.31(d) with a copy available for review. Food shall be served under the immediate supervision of a staff member.

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