








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.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Health Protocols within Corrections Systems:</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Collaborative Planning:</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Resource Requirements and Allocation:</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Legal and Regulatory Frameworks:</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Facility Layout and Population Density:</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish clear communication channels with corrections leadership. • Ensure that emergency information effectively reaches both staff and people who are incarcerated. <p>Communication Channels:</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify vulnerable populations within corrections facilities (e.g., elderly, immunocompromised). • Consider the needs of people who are incarcerated with preexisting health conditions. <p>Vulnerabilities and Special Needs:</p> 	

* Definition of "emergency" by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, [Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101 \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov/comprehensive-preparedness-guide-101).

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Public Health Guidelines:</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Emergency Management Protocols:</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish clear protocols for sharing critical information with emergency management agencies. • Ensure timely and accurate reporting of incidents, including health-related issues. <p>Information Sharing Protocols:</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Coordination with External Agencies:</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Evacuation, Sheltering and Alternate Care Facility Plans:</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Community Engagement:</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Resource Planning:</p> 	

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