What Emergency Management Needs to Know about Corrections Systems

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.

- Learn about the existing health protocols and procedures within corrections systems.
- Understand how medical services are provided to people who are incarcerated.
- 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.

**Facility Layout and Population Density:**

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<td>1. Understand that corrections does not plan for extensive outside assistance because facilities must balance the needs of response with facility security.</td>
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<td>2. 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.</td>
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<td>3. Include corrections staff in tabletop exercises and drills to enhance coordination.</td>
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<td>1. Be aware that corrections is a resource available to support emergency response but also may need resources during an event.</td>
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<td>2. Collaborate on resource-sharing strategies during crises.</td>
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<td>3. Be aware that corrections staff are difficult to replace without specialized training.</td>
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**Collaborative Planning:**

- Establish clear communication channels with corrections leadership.
- Ensure that emergency information effectively reaches both staff and people who are incarcerated.

**Resource Requirements and Allocation:**

- Identify vulnerable populations within corrections facilities (e.g., elderly, immunocompromised).
- Consider the needs of people who are incarcerated with preexisting health conditions.

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*Created by the COVID-19 Detection and Mitigation in Confinement Facilities Training and Technical Assistance Center, February 2024*
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- 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.

Public Health Guidelines:

- 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.

Emergency Management Protocols:

- Establish clear protocols for sharing critical information with emergency management agencies.
- Ensure timely and accurate reporting of incidents, including health-related issues.

Information Sharing Protocols:

- 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.

Coordination with External Agencies:

- 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.

Evacuation, Sheltering and Alternate Care Facility Plans:

- 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.

Community Engagement:

- 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.

Resource Planning: