

## 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.

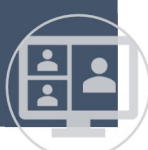
- Learn about the existing health protocols and procedures within corrections systems.
- Understand how medical services are provided to people who are incarcerated and staff.
- Be aware that an outbreak of illness at a correctional facility can quickly overwhelm community resources if not given high priority.

### Health Protocols within Corrections Systems:



- 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.

### Collaborative Planning:



- 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.

### Resource Requirements and Allocation:



- 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.

### Legal and Regulatory Frameworks:



- 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:



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

### Communication Channels:



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








### Vulnerabilities and Special Needs:



\* 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"> <li>• Stay updated on the latest public health guidelines, especially those related to infectious diseases like COVID-19.</li> <li>• Implement recommended public health practices and guidance within the corrections setting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Public Health Guidelines:</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn how to request assistance from emergency management.</li> <li>• Familiarize corrections staff with emergency management protocols, including incident command structures.</li> <li>• Collaborate on joint training exercises for emergency response.</li> </ul> <p><b>Emergency Management Protocols:</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish clear protocols for sharing critical information with emergency management agencies.</li> <li>• Ensure timely and accurate reporting of incidents, including health-related issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Information Sharing Protocols:</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop relationships with external agencies involved in emergency response, such as state and local emergency management agencies.</li> <li>• Coordinate efforts with local health departments, hospitals, and other relevant entities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Coordination with External Agencies:</b></p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with emergency management to develop evacuation and sheltering plans for people who are incarcerated and staff.</li> <li>• Consider temporary facilities for medical treatment centers, utilizing support and coordination from emergency management.</li> <li>• Ensure plans are integrated into overall emergency response strategies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Evacuation, Sheltering and Alternate Care Facility Plans:</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with emergency management in community engagement efforts.</li> <li>• Educate the community about corrections systems' response to non-security emergencies, noting the need to balance coordinated response with facility security.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Engagement:</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Understand the availability and types of external resources to support correctional facilities including contract support services, vendors and supply chain capacity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resource Planning:</b></p> 	

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