Facility Name: Kinney Co. Jail

Date: April 13, 2017

1 259 .102 Facility security shall be planned to protect inmates from one another, protect staff and visitors from inmates, and deter or prevent escapes.

Upon entry into the facility lobby, this inspector observed the entry door to the jail was locked open by a chain on the wall. This door gives open access into the center hub of the jail, East and West sides and it was possible to walk directly into the booking area and holding cells.

2 263 .41 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.

Jailers C. Feagley and J. Daniels did not have any documented life safety training in 2017. Jailer S. Saravia had not received any emergency training since her hire date which is over a month ago. This issue was confirmed during the fire drill conducted during the jail inspection. Jailer Saravia did not know any emergency procedures once the alarm was activated.

3 263 .42 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, 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.

During the review of life safety paperwork, it was determined that no Quarterly Fire Inspection Checklists have been completed since last annual inspection.

4 263 .54 All life safety equipment shall be out of reach of inmates or otherwise secured from unauthorized tampering. At least one self-contained breathing apparatus shall be available and maintained in or near each facility control station. All staff shall be trained and quarterly drills conducted in the use of this equipment. A minimum of one unit shall be provided for each building of a multibuilding facility and on each floor of a multistory facility.

During the fire drill, staff could not locate a SCBA in order to respond to the area under alarm. This inspector directed Jailer Saravia to bring an extinguisher and it was confirmed she had never received training on emergency situations. After the drill was terminated, staff located the SCBA outside the jail proper and in the sheriff's office where it was left after some testing.

5 263 .55 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.

During the walkthrough of the East Side, it was determined that there was no operable smoke detector in Day Room D. The detector was hanging loose from wires in the protective cage housing. The cell was taken offline for inmate use.

6 265 .13(a) (a) Each sheriff/operator shall investigate and verify the veteran status of each prisoner by using data made available from the Veterans Reentry Search Service (VRSS) operated by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs or similar service.

The jail staff have not been loading inmate information to the VA System to verify veteran status of inmate for approximately 6 months.
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.

The jail staff are going over the required 60 minute observations of inmates in the general population areas of the facility. Normally, the overages ranged from five to ten minutes up to an hour on a couple of occasions. The overages were identified over several months and showed an established pattern.

Preventive maintenance, to include necessary repairs, shall be conducted to ensure a safe, secure, and sanitary facility.

During the walkthrough of the holding cell, it was observed that the large metal floor grate intended to cover the flushing floor drain was missing. This left a large open hole with a 10 to 12 inch drop that was not safe. The cell was taken offline, by this inspector, until the grate could be replaced.

Phillip Bosquez, TCJS Inspector