Two-way voice communication shall be available at all times between inmates and corrections officers.

None of the intercoms on the old jail side worked as designed.

Adequate records of all required life safety plans, drills, and inspection of equipment shall be maintained and shall be readily available for inspection by the Commission. The records shall include date, time, results, and signature of person conducting inspection.

Quarterly SCBA Fire Drill training was not conducted and documented as required. Furthermore the monthly equipment checklist and quarterly fire prevention checklist were not completed and maintained for review as required.

Initial Custody Assessment. To be completed on all newly admitted inmates prior to housing assignments to determine custody levels.

Jailers did not fill out the top of the initial classification form. This inspector could not verify if inmates were classified prior to housing.

The plan shall provide that an annual, internal audit shall be conducted on the classification system. Audit records shall be maintained for Commission review.

The administration could not provide a classification audit at the time of the inspection.

Training. Provisions for staff training (including frequency and duration) on the procedures for recognition, supervision, documentation, and handling of inmates who are mentally disabled and/or potentially suicidal. Supplemental training should be provided to those staff members responsible for intake screening;

This inspector was unable to verify that suicide prevention training was conducted in accordance with the approved operational plan.

Provisions shall be made for at least twenty-four hours written notice to be given to the inmate of the claimed violation or charges against him/her.

This inspector could not verify that inmates were provided at least twenty-four hours written notice before signing the inmate waiver or before sanctions were administered for claimed violations against him or her.

Jennifer Shumake
Inspector, Texas Commission on Jail Standards