

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS
JAIL INSPECTION REPORT

Facility Name: Howard County Jail

Date: October 7, 2021

Item	Section	Paragraph	Comments
1	263	.42	<p><u>Fire Prevention Plan</u>. 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. <u>The facility shall be inspected annually by a local fire official.</u></p> <p>Facility fire inspection was 34 days overdue.</p>
2	273	.6(3)	<p>Restraints. Inmates exhibiting behavior indicating that they are a danger to themselves or others shall be managed in such a way as to minimize the threat of injury or harm. If restraints are determined to be necessary, they shall be used in a humane manner, only for the prevention of injury, and not as a punitive measure. A documented observation of the inmate shall be conducted every 15 minutes, at a minimum. The observations should include an assessment of the security of the restraints and the circulation to the extremities.</p> <p>Restraint chair documentation revealed jail staff exceeded the required 15-minute observation checks from anywhere between 1 to 5 minutes on multiple occasions.</p>
3	279	.1(1)	<p><u>Sanitation Plan</u> - A regular daily schedule for the work and inspections necessary to keep the facility clean; which schedule shall be assigned and supervised by corrections officers who have the responsibility for keeping the facility clean and making regular sanitation inspections.</p> <p>Inmate living areas were unsanitary with excess property and nuisance contraband throughout. Excess graffiti on walls.</p>
4	279	.1(2)	<p><u>Sanitation Plan</u> - Food preparation areas shall be inspected at least annually by health authorities and record kept for each inspection.</p> <p>Facility health department inspection was 4 months overdue.</p>
5	279	.1(5)	<p><u>Sanitation Plan</u> - The maintenance of toilets, lavatories, showers, and other equipment throughout the facility in good working order;</p> <p>A Block - 1 shower does not work, no hot water in middle sink.</p> <p>B Block - Low water pressure in cell 1.</p> <p>C Block - Low water pressure in all sinks, 1 sink does not work, 1 shower does not work, 3 lights out.</p> <p>D Block - 2 sinks not working, handicap shower does not work, 1 light out.</p> <p>E Block - No hot water in sink</p>



Jason Jouett, TCJS Inspector

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