

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS
JAIL INSPECTION REPORT**

Facility Name: Denton County

Date:

March 8-10, 2022

Item	Section	Paragraph	Comments
1	263	.50(a)	<p>New facilities, new additions, and major renovations to existing facilities shall be equipped with an emergency back-up electrical generator designed to operate both manually and automatically upon interruption of the primary electrical power source.</p> <p>During the inspection, the facility generator for the Pre-Trial Facility failed to operate automatically when power was disconnected to the facility.</p>
2	263	.42	<p>Fire Prevention Plan. 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.</p> <p>The Main Jail Facility and Pre-Trial Facility failed the annual inspection conducted by the Fire Marshal on May 27, 2021 and also failed a re-inspection conducted on June 18, 2021. Corrections for the deficiencies noted on the inspection report have not been corrected.</p>
3	263	.55	<p>Inspections, Maintenance, Testing. 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.</p> <p>The fire alarm system in the Pre-Trial Tower Facility was inoperable at the time of inspection. It was determined that Denton County is in the process of replacing the fire alarm system and had not made notification to TCJS prior to starting the project.</p>
4	263	.55	<p>Inspections, Maintenance, Testing. 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.</p> <p>The fire alarm panel for the courthouse was "Red" tagged August 28, 2021. Repairs to the courthouse fire alarm system had not been completed at the time of inspection.</p>
5	275	.1	<p>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.</p> <p>Video documentation reviewed, shows that staff failed to conduct a proper face-to-face observation of an inmate in Holding 1. Staff merely scanned the electronic tag without actually seeing the inmate in the holding cell. The inmate suffered a medical emergency resulting in death while in the holding cell.</p>

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Michael L. Gravitt, TCJS Inspector