



## INMATE DISTURBANCES AND RIOTS

### POLICY.

It is the policy of Deschutes County Sheriff's Office – Adult Jail (AJ) to take immediate steps to stop riots and/or inmate disturbances and restore the safety, security and order of the facility.

### PURPOSE.

The purpose of this policy is to provide members with guidelines to follow during a riot or major disturbance.

### OREGON JAIL STANDARDS:

- E- 601 Emergency Planning

### REFERENCES:

- ORS 169.076, Standards for local correctional facilities
- ORS 162.245, Refusing to assist a peace officer
- DCSO Policy 3.43 Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team

### DEFINITIONS.

**Demonstration.** Any passive nonviolent act by one or more inmates that is designed to express prisoner dissatisfaction with conditions of incarceration, AJ rules and regulations, and bypass the normal established methods of prisoner communications and grievance procedures.

**Disturbance.** Any act by one or more inmates designed to cause a disruption of normal activities, interfere with the performance of AJ duties, or hinder the general functions of the AJ.

**Riot.** Any uncontrolled violent act designed to cause property damage and/or personal injury and involves three or more inmates. Riots tend to be escalating in nature.

**Disruption.** A riot, disturbance, or demonstration.

### PROCEDURES.

#### *SECTION A: PREVENTION AND DETECTION*

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- A-1.** Seemingly insignificant issues may quickly escalate from inmate dissatisfaction to rioting unless members act to prevent and reduce tensions and misunderstandings. Members will put in place the following strategies that help prevent the issues and conditions that may lead to inmate disturbances:
- a. Good communication between supervision and members on AJ operations.
  - b. Good communication between members and inmates on rules, procedures, programs, and expectations.
  - c. Good communication between shifts.
  - d. Highly accessible and visible supervision by AJ supervisors.
  - e. Prompt member reporting that informs supervisors of unrest in the AJ.
  - f. Useful activities and recreation programs for inmates.
  - g. A well-designed classification system. (This will help prevent inmate gangs, pressure groups, or other disruptive individuals from emerging and assuming power.)
  - h. Fair and impartial treatment of inmates.
- A-2** Even when prevention strategies are in place, tensions can rise because of events from both the inside and outside of the AJ. For this reason, members must constantly look for signs of unrest and discontent among inmates.
- A-3** The following areas may indicate unrest among inmates:
- a. Changes in general inmate behavior.
  - b. Behavioral health, medical or substance use issues.
  - c. Any incident that could likely result in substantial stress or unrest.
  - d. Inmates avoiding contact with members.
  - e. A large increase in the number of inmate complaints and grievances.
  - f. An increase in the number of disciplinary reports.
  - g. An increase in the number of inmates asking for protective custody.
  - h. An increase in the number of inmates on sick call.
  - i. An increase in commissary spending, mail or property transfers.
- A-4** The following issues can add to inmate unrest:
- a. Racial or gang issues.
  - b. Quality and quantity of food.
  - c. Availability and quality of health care.
  - d. Idleness or lack of programs or recreation.
  - e. Availability and content of mail, visiting, programs and telephone calls.
  - f. Emotional stress of incarceration.
  - g. Sexual or peer pressure.
  - h. Misinformation or inadequate information.
  - i. Reduction of privileges.
  - j. Dissatisfaction with members.
  - k. Substandard facilities.

- l. Overcrowding.
- m. Family pressures or relationship problems.

**A-5** Members must promptly report any tense or negative climate within the AJ to a supervisor. Members will correct, to the extent possible or practical, problems that lead to unrest and discontent. They will openly explain to inmates the reasons why certain policies and rules must remain in place.

**A-6** If prevention and early detection strategies are not successful, several types of disturbances may arise:

- a. Disturbances between two or more inmate groups.
- b. Disturbances being used as a camouflage for an escape attempt.
- c. Disturbances of a general nature to try to correct some real or perceived grievance.

***SECTION B: GENERAL GUIDELINES***

**B-1.** Members should always be on alert for unusual activities or tension, and make every effort to offset violence and maintain a preventative approach to inmate unrest.

**B-2.** Members should be aware that any disturbance, demonstration, or riot might be a diversionary tactic [REDACTED]

**B-3.** If a disruption of normal AJ routine develops within a housing unit, deputies must make an assessment of the situation and notify a supervisor and control center members of the nature of the situation. [REDACTED]

**B-4.** Deputies shall order all non-participants to their cells or separate themselves from the involved individuals.

**B-5.** If the disruption is escalating and safety is jeopardized, deputies still within a housing unit must do one of the following:

- a. [REDACTED]
- b. [REDACTED]

**B-6.** Inmates who are involved in the disruptive activity will be ordered to cease and return to their cells, or if in dorms, to their bunks to prevent the disorder from spreading. [REDACTED]

**B-7.** The deputy will [REDACTED]

- B-8.** The deputy will [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- B-9.** The deputy will continue to monitor the disruption at all times, if possible, regardless of their location.
- B-10.** When members observe a disruption of normal activities [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- a. Notify a supervisor [REDACTED]
  - b. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
  - c. Identify the remaining participants and order them to cease their disruptive activity.
  - d. [REDACTED]
- B-11.** If an inmate causes a disruption [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] members will notify a supervisor and control center members of the nature of the disruption. Deputies will then [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Deputies will then do the following:
- a. [REDACTED]
  - b. Order all inmates involved to stop their disruptive activities.
  - c. [REDACTED]
  - d. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
  - e. [REDACTED]

***SECTION C: CONTROL CENTER MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES***

- C-1.** Upon notification of a disruption of normal AJ activities, the control center members will:
- a. Immediately notify a supervisor of the situation and the area where the disturbance is located.
  - b. Suspend inmate movement in and out of the affected area.
  - c. [REDACTED] notify appropriate agencies and persons as ordered by the supervisor.
  - d. Stand by to receive orders.
  - e. [REDACTED]
  - f. [REDACTED]

**SECTION D: SHIFT SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

**D-1.** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Issues to consider include:

- a. [REDACTED]
- b. [REDACTED]
- c. [REDACTED]
- d. [REDACTED]
- e. [REDACTED]
- f. [REDACTED]
- g. [REDACTED]
- h. [REDACTED]
- i. [REDACTED]
- j. [REDACTED]
- k. [REDACTED]
- l. [REDACTED]
- m. [REDACTED]
- n. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**D-2.** Once notified a disruption is occurring, the supervisor will:

- a. [REDACTED]
- b. [REDACTED]
- c. Authorize sufficient force to restore order, if necessary.
- d. Restore order in the affected area.
- e. Ensure that all AJ policies are followed.
- f. If the supervisor determines order cannot be restored [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- g. Notify the chain of command.
- h. Notify the Sheriff’s Office Patrol Division and have law enforcement personnel respond.
- i. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- j. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

- k. Ensure that the following are carried out once the disruption is brought under control:
  - 1) [REDACTED]
  - 2) Provide medical treatment for all injured inmates and members.
  - 3) Secure the scene for criminal investigation.
  - 4) Assist the law enforcement agency in the investigation of the criminal matters.
  - 5) Conduct an unclothed search of all inmates in the disrupted area.
  - 6) Release non-participating inmates from individual cells and return the AJ or WC to normal operations.
  - 7) Inspect all areas for damage, document and photo the damage.
  - 8) Detailed reports will be submitted by all response team members.
- l. Conduct a complete investigation of the incident and all members will be debriefed based on the information discovered in the review.
- m. Submit an Incident Report detailing the action taken to bring the disruption under control.
- n. Forward copies of all reports to the Deschutes County District Attorney's Office to determine whether criminal prosecution is appropriate. Initiate disciplinary proceedings for all inmates involved.

**D-3.** If the situation warrants, the supervisor will:

- a. Have Emergency Medical Services (EMS) dispatched to the AJ and have them stand by. The supervisor will have the hospital notified of the situation and request they stand by.
- b. Have a deputy meet law enforcement and EMS at the security gate and escort them to the designated command post. The supervisor will then brief responding personnel.
- c. Request SWAT team activation.

***SECTION E: DEMONSTRATIONS***

**E-1.** If the nature of the disruption within the AJ [REDACTED]

- a. Notify the control center members and a supervisor.
- b. Request backup [REDACTED]
- c. Order all non-participants to cell-in or separate themselves from the area(s) involved.
- d. Have the responding deputies escort all of the non-participants to a safe area.
- e. Have all non-essential personnel evacuate the area.
- f. All participants will be identified and ordered to return to their cells.
- g. Inmates participating in the demonstration will not receive privileges (i.e., telephone, television, visiting, commissary, library, etc.).

- h. Food shall be served in sacks for safety and security.
- i. If the disruption jeopardizes the safety and security of the AJ or if the disruption appears to be escalating, the inmates involved in the demonstration shall be forcibly removed from the area and secured in a cell pending discipline hearings.
- j. All participants will receive a formal disciplinary rules violation report and or criminal charges if warranted.
- k. Members involved will submit incident reports documenting the incident.
- l. The supervisor will submit an incident report.

**FORMS USED:**

- Incident Report (JMS)