

1.2.A.1 Fire Prevention

I Policy Index:



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Office of Primary Responsibility: DOC Administration

II Policy:

Department of Corrections (DOC) institutions will maintain a fire protection plan, fire prevention procedures and emergency equipment, as required by DOC policy, federal and state law, and local fire code.

III Definition(s):

Facility Chief Inspector:

The staff person designated by the Warden or designee as the chairperson of the Loss Control Committee. The inspector is responsible for ensuring conditions within the institution meet fire prevention, sanitation and safety standards. The inspector will complete training necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the position and will be the point of contact for all questions pertaining to fire prevention, sanitation and safety standards.

State Fire Marshal:

The State Fire Marshal's office assists fire departments throughout South Dakota with training, fire investigation, public education, fire prevention, and code compliance. The "State Fire Marshal" includes any designated representative of the State Fire Marshal's office. All DOC institutions are inspected on a regular basis by the State Fire Marshal's office.

IV Procedure(s):

1. Fire Protection Plan:

- A. Each institution will include a current fire protection plan within the Emergency Response Manual (See DOC policy 1.3.B.1 [Emergency Response](#)). Fire protection plans will be reviewed and approved by the Warden or designee annually (ACA 4-4211).
- B. Fire protection plans will include procedures for evacuation, drills, staff responsibilities and duties, security precautions and provisions for providing alternate housing, supervision and continuation of essential services (food services, medical, behavioral health) in the case of significant damage to infrastructure (ACA 4-4222).

1. Institutional staff must be familiar with the institution's fire protection plan, evacuation plans, and availability and location of fire protection equipment throughout the institution. Staff will be trained in and aware of their responsibilities and duties during a fire incident.
- C. Institutions will be equipped with adequate and operational fire protection equipment (ACA 4-4211).
- D. Each area of an institution used by staff and inmates must have a copy of the floor plan for that particular area that includes instructions and diagrams showing the location of fire exits, evacuation routes and location of portable fire extinguishers and other emergency equipment. The evacuation route for the unit will be included in the unit plans for each inmate housing area (See DOC policy 1.3.A.1 [Unit Plans](#)). The exit plan will be posted in a common area of the unit or area and must remain unobstructed and visible at all times.
 1. Preservation of human life is the most important element of institutional fire protection plans. In the case of a fire evacuation, staff's first responsibility is to get everyone properly evacuated to a designated safe and secure location.
 2. The Physical Plant Manager or designee will maintain accurate floor plans for all applicable areas of the institution and ensure the posted floor plan/exit plan is current.
- E. The institution's fire protection plan will be reviewed by the State Fire Marshall's office during the annual Fire Safety and Hazard Identification Review/inspection (ACA 4-4211).
 1. Staff will be informed of significant changes to the fire protection plan in a timely manner.
 2. Fire prevention training will be made available to staff as deemed appropriate and necessary (See DOC policies 1.1.D.1 [Staff Training Requirements](#)).

2. Fire Evacuation Drills:

- A. Fire evacuation drills will be conducted at least once a month at all institutions housing inmates.
 1. A record of the date and time for each drill shall be maintained by designated staff.
- B. Pre-planned drills may be announced to staff; however, to preserve the effectiveness of the drill, prior notification will be limited to those staff that need to know.
 1. The Physical Plant Manager and Facility Chief Inspector will be notified in advance of the drill.
 2. Certain classifications of inmates may pose a risk to safety and security and may be excluded from all or portions of a fire evacuation drill (ACA 4-4221).
 - a. The Warden or designee will pre-determine which areas of the institution and inmates will be excluded.
 - b. The Warden or designee shall ensure an appropriate plan is in place to direct the evacuation of high-risk inmates/areas in the case of a fire incident. Staff assigned to areas where high risk inmates are housed will be trained in the plan and procedures to safely and securely evacuate high risk inmates.

3. Fire Protection Plan Content:

- A. Each institution will develop and maintain a fire protection plan, which will be implemented when a fire is discovered or suspected within an institution, adjacent buildings or on the grounds. The fire protection plan must include plans that are specific to areas of institution (recreation yard, prison industries, housing block, etc.) (ACA 4-4220).
- B. The fire protection plan must include communication processes to notify staff of the location and type of fire; instructions on the use of emergency equipment, and implementation of security precautions to minimize the possibility of escape.
- C. Each control room will maintain an accurate and updated list of emergency numbers and know how to contact local fire departments in the case of a fire.
- D. The fire protection plan will include the duties and responsibilities of maintenance staff, i.e. shut-off and restoration of utilities in the area of the fire, operation of the backup system to restore electricity, maintenance of the physical plant, etc.

4. Post Fire Investigations:

- A. Following a significant fire incident within a DOC institution, a post-fire incident investigation may be conducted jointly by:
 - 1. The State Fire Marshal or designee, if the local fire department was summoned to extinguish the fire (See SDCL § [34-29B-9](#)); and
 - 2. DOC staff (to include but not limited to) the Physical Plant Manager, Facility Chief Inspector and DOC staff designated by the Warden or designee.
 - a. The State Fire Marshal's office will be contacted if there is significant damage to the institution/infrastructure, or loss of life or significant injury to staff or inmates.
 - b. If the State Fire Marshal's office responds to the fire incident, DOC staff may be instructed by the Fire Marshal to protect and preserve the scene until staff arrives to investigate the fire.
- B. Any report generated by the State Fire Marshal's office involving the investigation of a fire within a DOC institution will be forwarded to the Secretary of Corrections or designee, respective Warden, Director of Prison Operations, Director of Security and the Facility Chief Inspector (See SDCL § [34-29B-8](#)).
- C. DOC generated post-fire investigation reports will be sent to the Warden, who will forward the report, Major Incident reports and any other related information to the Secretary of Corrections and Risk Management, as deemed appropriate based on damage estimates, in accordance with DOC policy 1.1.A.3 [Reporting Information to DOC Administration and Office of Risk Management](#).

5. Fire Prevention Procedures:

- A. The Facility Chief Inspector will maintain conformance with the DOC's fire prevention and safety requirements by monitoring the following tasks (ACA 4-4211 and 4-4212):

1. Ensure all emergency exits are clearly marked with exit signs that are in good working condition. Ensure all exit doors, exit signs and aisle and escape routes remain unobstructed at all times. Exit signs must be visible/lighted at all times. All self-closing fire doors shall operate properly. Fire doors shall not be propped open.
2. Ensure emergency generators are tested a minimum of once each month. Emergency generators will receive annual maintenance and inspection. Documentation of all testing shall be maintained for each generator and subject to inspection.
 - a. Any deficiencies in emergency generators or other emergency equipment shall be immediately reported to the Warden or designee. Corrective action shall be taken promptly to rectify any deficiencies.
3. Ensure annual inspection, testing and maintenance is completed on the sprinkler system and hydrants. Sprinkler heads must be free of obstruction (18" radius). No storage is permitted within 24' of the ceiling. Records of the inspection will be kept on file for reference during the Annual Fire Safety and Hazard Identification Review.
4. Ensure annual inspection, testing and maintenance of all fire alarm systems. Records will be kept on file for reference during the Annual Fire Safety and Hazard Identification Review.
5. Ensure annual service and inspection by a certified vender is completed on all portable fire extinguishers. Staff is responsible for conducting monthly visual checks of all portable extinguishers and initialing the back of the extinguisher tag after the inspection. Fire extinguishers will be mounted in a clear/visible, unobstructed location. The top of the extinguisher shall be mounted no more than 5' from the bottom of the floor.

6. Sweat Lodge Fires and Other Controlled Fires:

- A. All outside fires must be constantly attended until the fire burns out completely or is properly extinguished.
- B. The only materials permitted as fuel for fires is wood from trees, small branches, and newspaper (to start the fire). Treated lumber, construction debris, garbage and plastic materials shall not be burned.
- C. A portable fire extinguisher, operable garden hose or buckets of water must be readily available at the location of any controlled fire. Equipment to extinguish the controlled fire shall be maintained within fifteen (15) feet of the fire at all times, until the fire is extinguished.
- D. For thirty (30) minutes after a controlled fire is extinguished, the fire area shall be monitored and to ensure any remaining fuel does not reignite. Monitoring may include staff visually checking the area through use of the security camera system.
- E. Fire activities shall be suspended whenever a burn ban or fire restriction has been enacted for the area by state or local officials, unless a waiver or variance is provided by the appropriate agency/officials.

7. Annual Fire Safety Review:

- A. Each institution shall receive an Annual Fire Safety Review by the State Fire Marshal's office to measure compliance with national and local fire safety codes (See DOC policy 1.2.A.3 [Institutional Sanitation and Safety Inspections](#) & SDCL § [34-29B-2](#), ACA 4-4211).
- B. The State Fire Marshal's office will submit a report of the inspection to the Warden or designated institutional contact person.
- C. Designated staff at the institution will ensure any deficiencies noted are corrected. The Warden or designee shall generate a written response to the Fire Marshal's office and forward the response to the Facility Chief Inspector, DOC Director of Operations and Policy and Compliance Manager within thirty (30) days of receiving the report.
- D. The Facility Chief Inspector will maintain copies of the following documents and have these available for review upon request:
 1. Respective institution's Annual Fire Safety Review results;
 2. Any applicable cover letters received from the State Fire Marshal; and
 3. Respective institution's response to the identified deficiencies (to include the date of inspection).

V Related Directives:

SDCL §§ [34-29B-2](#), [34-29B-8](#) and [34-29B-9](#).

DOC policy 1.1.A.3 – [Reporting Information to DOC Administration and Office of Risk Management](#)

DOC policy 1.1.D.1 – [Staff Training Requirements](#)

DOC policy 1.2.A.3 – [Institutional Sanitation and Safety Inspections](#)

DOC policy 1.3.A.1 -- [Unit Plans](#)

DOC policy 1.3.B.1 – [Emergency Response](#)

VI Revision Log:

Removed revisions from June 2002 - March 2009.

April 2010: Revised formatting of Section 1. Added definition of Facility Chief Inspector. Replaced Policy & Compliance Manager with CRT regarding who reports are submitted to, revised Warden, Superintendent or designee with Facility Chief Inspection in regard to who submits the reports to the CRT and deleted reference to time frame that reports should be provided to Policy & Compliance Manager all within ss (F of Annual Fire Safety Inspections).

April 2011: Added Definition of State Fire Marshal. Deleted "some" and Added "Certain areas of the facility and classifications of" & "planned fire drills" to Section 2, 3. Added a. "The Warden, Superintendent, or his/her designee will pre-determine which areas of the facility and/or which juveniles or inmates are not required to fully participate in the fire drill." to Section 2. 3. Replaced "are expected to" with "shall" in Section 2. C. Added "evacuation" to Section 3. A. Added hyperlinks to SDCL statutes located within Chapter 34.

May 2012: Deleted "Non-Public" and Replaced with "Public" Added a. "Staff are expected to be familiar with the institution's fire protection plan and review the procedures and their basic responsibilities during a fire incident" in Section 1 B. Added "properly" and "unobstructed location" to Section 1 C. Added "accurately maintained" in Section 1 D. Added D. and E. and E. a. to Section 1. Added "Preservation of life is the most important element of the fire protection plan, therefore" to Section 1 F. Added "and at the direction of designated staff" to Section 2 A. Added 1. "A record of

the date and time for each drill must be maintained” to Section 2 A. **Added** “immediately” to Section 2 B. 2. **Added** “who may pose an unreasonable security risk” and **Deleted** “due to security reasons” in Section 2 B. 3. **Replaced** “juveniles or inmates” with “offenders” throughout the policy. **Added** new Section 3 “Emergency Fire Procedures” and **Renumbered** sections that followed. **Added** a. “Staff shall protect and preserve the scene of the fire until an investigation can be conducted by the Fire Marshal” in Section 4 A. 1. **Added** “post-fire report, a Major Incident report and any other related” to Section 5 A. 3. **Deleted** “institutional” from Section 5. A. **Added** “and tested on a regular basis to ensure” to Section 5 A. 2. **Added** 3 “Any deficiencies in emergency generators and/or other emergency equipment shall be promptly reported and addressed” to Section 5 A. 3. **Added** new Section 6 “Sweat Lodge and Recreational Fires” **Added** “Director of Operations and the Policy and Compliance Manager” to Section 7 E.

May 2013: Reviewed with no changes.

May 2014: Reviewed with no changes.

May 2015: **Added** “Fire protection plans will be reviewed and approved by the Warden or Superintendent annually” in Section 1 B. **Deleted** “certified” and **Replaced** with “reviewed” and **Deleted** “reviewed annually by the Warden and designated staff” and **Replaced** with “during the annual Fire Safety and Hazard Identification Review” in Section 1 E. **Deleted** “fire” and **Replaced** with “evacuation” in Section 2. **Added** “adjacent buildings or on the grounds” in Section 3 A. **Added** 3-5in Section 5. **Added** “a minimum of once each month” and **Deleted** “and other related equipment is adequately maintained and” and **Added** “Emergency generators will receive annual maintenance and inspection and **Deleted** “on a regular basis to ensure essential lights, power and communication services are functional during a fire incident” in Section 5 A. 2. **Deleted** “inspections of each institution will be conducted and **Replaced** with “each facility shall receive an Annual Fire Safety Review” in Section 7 A. **Deleted** B. 1-3. **Added** “or designated institutional contact person” in Section 7 C.

April 2016: **Deleted** reference to “superintendent” from the policy. **Added** “availability of fire protection equipment at appropriate locations throughout the institution” in Section 1 B. 1. **Added** “Ensure all exit doors, exit signs and aisles remain unobstructed at all times. Exit signs must be visible at all times. Self-closing doors shall operate properly. Any repairs or adjustments will be completed promptly” in Section 5 A. 1.

April 2017: Reviewed with no changes.

May 2018: **Added** “and provisions for providing alternate housing, supervision and continuation of essential services (food services, medical, mental health) in the case of significant damage to infrastructure” in Section 1 B. **Added** new C. to Section 1. **Added** b. to Section 2 B. 2. **Added** “Any necessary repairs or adjustments will be completed promptly” in Section 5 A. 1.

May 2019: Reviewed with no changes.

July 2020: Reviewed with no changes.

April 2021: **Deleted** “mental” and **Replaced** with “behavioral” in Section 1 B. **Updated** policy title for 1.1.A.3 “Reporting Information to DOC Administration” to **Add** “and Office of Risk Management” throughout policy. **Deleted** policy title “Sanitation, Safety and Fire Prevention Inspections” and **Replaced** with “Institutional Sanitation and Safety Inspections” throughout policy.

Mike Leidholt (original signature on file)

Mike Leidholt, Secretary of Corrections

04/23/2021

Date