

## Section 6: Jail Emergencies Response Plan

Subject: Suicide

Minimum Standard: 5120:1-8-03(B)(4)

Revised: 10/2008, 12/2011

Authorized: \_\_\_\_\_ Effective date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sheriff Paul A. Sigsworth

### POLICY

The Erie County Jail shall have policies and procedures, and practices which evidence that there is a plan that guides the jail's response to emergencies. All jail personnel will be trained in the implementation of the emergency plan. The emergency plan will include procedures to be followed in situations that threaten jail security.

### DEFINITION

A jail emergency can be, but not limited to, escape, hostage situation, fire, riot, food poisoning, civil disturbance in the community, natural disaster, suicide, other death, outbreak of contagious disease, inmate strike and other disturbances, bomb threat, or any action that affects or jeopardizes the security of the Erie County Jail and/or the safety of the inmates and/or staff.

### PROCEDURE

#### A. Policy:

1. In the event of attempted suicide, the officers and personnel will take all actions necessary to properly respond to the situation.

#### B. Discovery:

1. The Corrections Officer who observes an inmate attempting suicide shall:
  1. Secure the area and request backup.
  2. Notify the Shift Supervisor.
  3. Talk to the inmate and do not leave him or her alone.
  4. Offer alternatives until help arrives.
  5. The Shift Supervisor shall:
    - a. Respond to the area and evaluate the situation.
    - b. Follow procedures as required by the situation such as:
      - i. Contact Dispatch for inmate Transportation to the Hospital
      - ii. Contact Firelands Mental Health for Emergency Evaluation
      - iii. Move inmate to appropriate housing location
      - iv. Initiate a suicide watch
2. Corrections Officer who observes a suicide attempt shall:
  1. Notify the Shift Supervisor immediately and call for backup.
    - a. Corrections Officers will not enter the housing area until the other inmates have been secured and/or back up arrives.
  2. With assistance, remove the inmate from the threatening situation.
  3. Begin first aid as required.
  4. Document all action as soon as possible.

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5. The Shift Supervisor shall:
  - a. Secure the area and assign other officers to assist, as needed.
  - b. Determine if the inmate needs immediate medical attention:
    - i. If the nurse is on station, ask that he/she respond to the scene.
    - ii. If the squad is need, contact dispatch for Perkins Fire Department to respond.
  
6. The Shift Supervisor will do the following if the inmate does not need immediate medical attention:
  - a. Contact Firelands Mental Health Center for an Emergency Evaluation.
  - b. Move inmate to appropriate housing location.
  - c. Notify the Jail Administrator of the situation.
  - d. See that all officers involved complete reports as soon as possible.

#### **2. Notification**

- A. The Shift Supervisor will be responsible for notifying the Jail Administrator of the situation.
- B. The Jail Administrator will then contact the Chief Deputy if the suicide attempt is successful and family notification is required.

#### **3. Reporting**

- A. All officers involved in the situation will complete a detailed jail narrative of the incident.
- B. The Shift Supervisor will be responsible for entering the event into the Jail Log.
  1. The log code to be used is SASC – Suicide Attempted / Completed.
- C. If the suicide is completed the Erie County Sheriff's Office patrol division will be responsible for contacting the Erie County Coroner.
- D. The Jail Administrator will be responsible for notifying the division of parole and community services of the incident within 30 days.

#### **4. Review**

- A. In the event of serious or successfully completed suicide attempt, a review of the incident will take place:
  1. Jail Administration will review the incident ensure all Jail Policy and Procedures were followed.
  2. The Erie County health department will review the incident to ensure all Medical Policy and Procedures were followed.

#### **5. Critical Incident Debriefing**

- A. All staff and inmates affected by a serious or successfully completed suicide attempt will be offered services from Firelands Mental Health.