

## Section 6: Jail Emergencies Response Plan

Subject: Riot / Disturbances

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. Corrections Staff shall attempt to quell the inmate riot / disturbances as quickly as possible and with the minimum amount of force necessary to bring the situation under control.

#### B. Definitions:

##### 1. Disturbance;

1. Any incident involving any number of inmates, but limited to acts of passive resistance without engaging in property destruction, assault, and/or attempts to escape (hunger strike, refusal to work, sit down strike, refusal to obey orders, etc.)

##### 2. Riot

1. A violent disturbance involving three or more inmates accompanied by the commission of acts of property destruction, arson, assault, civil disobedience, escape, etc.

#### C. Warning Signs:

1. Prior to any organized disturbance or riot, certain warning signs may be detected by corrections staff. Inmates may:
  1. Become uncommunicative.
  2. Cease talking upon the approach of a corrections officer.
  3. Complain about food, treatment, or conditions in general.
  4. Are especially tense or nervous.

## **Section 6: Jail Emergencies Response Plan**

### **Subject: Riot / Disturbances (Continued)**

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

**Revised: 10/2008, 12/2011**

#### **D. Discovery:**

1. The corrections officer who first learns of a riot / disturbance shall:
  1. Immediately terminate all movement.
  2. Immediately advised the Shift Supervisor or OIC via radio transmission of the incident and its location. The Shift Supervisor will:
    - a. Ensure all non-involved inmates are secured inmates in their cells until riot / disturbance is over and the facility is secure.
  3. Secure the immediate area.
  4. Close all surrounding doors.
  5. Contain the situation to as small of an area as physically possible.
  6. Advise support staff of the situation and relocate them to a secure area
  7. Inmates will not be accepted for booking or released until authorized by the Sheriff or Jail Administrator.
  8. Maintenance, service, or delivery personnel will not be allowed to leave or enter the security perimeter until cleared by Road Division Personnel.
  9. Identify amount of inmates involved and any weapons that may be present at the site of the riot / disturbance.

#### **E. Notification:**

1. The Shift Supervisor will;
  1. Immediately notify Dispatch of the incident with as much information as possible:
    - a. Location of riot / disturbance
    - b. Number of inmates involved
    - c. Number of and types of weapons involved
    - d. Degree of violence and property damage present
      - i. The Dispatcher will:
        1. Alert the Road Patrol of the situation
        2. Contact Perkins Fire and EMS and request a squad to standby
  2. Notify the Jail Administrator as soon as possible.
  3. No information will be released to the news media without approval of the Sheriff or his designee.

#### **F. Identify:**

1. Staff should identify all inmates involved in the riot / disturbance:
  1. Officers should attempt to identify the leader(s) of the group.

#### **G. Response:**

1. The Corrections Officer discovering the riot / disturbance:
  1. Will not attempt to subdue or quell the riot / disturbance prior to the arrival of additional staff.

## **Section 6: Jail Emergencies Response Plan**

### **Subject: Riot / Disturbances (Continued)**

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

**Revised: 10/2008, 12/2011**

2. Will avoid seizure as a hostage and/or loss of keys in their possession.
2. The Shift Supervisor will:
  1. Ensure the security of the jail remains intact.
  2. Record all information pertaining to the riot / disturbance.
  3. Will not, under any circumstances, relinquish any security area to any inmate under threat of force or threat of bodily harm to a hostage.
  4. Will not unlock any secured area of the jail until it is safe to do so.
3. Upon arrival, officers called in to assist will be requested to initially surround the perimeter of the jail to prevent escape.
4. Under direction of the Sheriff or designee, officers shall employ such riot / disturbance control means as necessary to regain control of the jail.
  1. This will not be attempted until overwhelming manpower is available.
5. Only the amount of force necessary to gain control of the inmates will be used.
6. Officers will explicitly follow the directions of the Sheriff or designee.
7. Once subdued, the inmates causing the riot / disturbance will be controlled until corrections staff is prepared to have them reenter their assigned cells or other secured areas in the jail.
8. Once the Jail is secured:
  1. First aid will be provided to any person injured during riot / disturbance.
  2. A shake down of the riot / disturbance area will be conducted.
    - a. Officers will look for weapons, damage to the jail, other contraband
  3. A head count will be conducted to account for all inmates.
9. Inmates involved in the riot / disturbances will be closely monitored after control is regained to ensure their physical and mental health and to ensure the security of the jail.
  1. Each inmate involved will be strip searched in accordance with the Strip and Body Cavity Searches Policy in the Reception Section of this Policy and Procedure Manual and issued a clean uniform.
  2. They will be secured into the Administrative Segregation area of the jail until all reports are written and a determination of action is completed.

#### **H. Reporting**

1. All officers involved in the riot / disturbance will complete a Jail Incident Report in the Jail Records Management System as soon as possible and forward it to the Jail Administrator.

#### **I. Investigation:**

1. In the event of a riot / disturbance, the Detective Bureau of the Erie County Sheriff's Office will conduct a criminal investigation.

**Section 6: Jail Emergencies Response Plan**

**Subject: Riot / Disturbances (Continued)**

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

**Revised: 10/2008, 12/2011**

**J. Evaluation:**

1. A complete evaluation of the disturbance, circumstances that led up to the riot / disturbance, and action taken to quell the riot / disturbances will be conducted by the Jail Administrator.
2. The Jail Administrator will present all findings of the evaluation in writing to the corrections staff and the Sheriff.