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TRAINING BULLETIN

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Use of Flashlights to Communicate between Control and Floor Officers

It has long been a common practice in the Detentions Bureau for staff to use flashlights for informal communications between control officers and floor officers at the Pre-Trial and Justice Facilities. Most commonly, this communication takes the form of a floor officer signaling to the control officer to open the door of a particular cell the deputy is standing in front of.

While such communication is not prohibited, staff need to take into several considerations before relying on signals via flashlight between control and floor officers. These considerations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Flashlight signals are generally not appropriate for critical or emergency incidents (e.g., medical priority, response to a code red or code yellow, etc.). Communications for such incidents should generally occur over the radio so all responding units are aware of what is happening.
- Flashlight signals are easy to misinterpret. Their use should be limited to situations where the meaning is clearly understood and the consequences for a misunderstanding are minimal.
 - This is another reason flashlight signals are generally inappropriate for emergency situations, where a misunderstanding can have serious consequences.
- Flashlight signals from the control room can distract or draw a floor deputy's attention away from inmates or potential hazards in a housing unit. Radio traffic can be received and understood without taking one's eye off the area or situation being addressed. The same cannot be said of a flashlight signal.

The use of flashlights to signal between control rooms and a housing unit floor has its place in limited circumstances. However, when in doubt, staff should use the radio or phone to communicate between a control room and staff on the floor.

IMPORTANT

Please **SIGN IN** to acknowledge your reading after reviewing the Training Bulletin
**21-38 Use of Flashlights to Communicate between Control and Floor
Officers**

I have read and understand Training Bulletin 21-38 Use of Flashlights to Communicate
between Control and Floor Officers.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ CAD ID #: _____